

History of  
St. Anthony's Church  
Forest Grove, Oregon

1908-1990  
By Vera DeWolf

## INTRODUCTION

The history of our parish dates back to 1908.

In writing the history of St. Anthony's Parish, Forest Grove, Oregon, I attempted to cover events of importance during the past 27 years. During that time, I served as secretary and administrative assistant of the parish. My service spanned six different pastors and six associate pastors from 1963-1990.

The main objective is to provide a summary of major events as well as the personalities of pastors, associate pastors and staff members, and to remind the reader that it is the contributions and giving of self and of each priest, nun and lay person that has made St. Anthony's what it is today.

I have gone not only to the records kept during the past twenty-seven years, but to the many memories and experiences that I have tucked away. Each priest has had a very special place in the hearts of our parishioners – there were many accomplishments as well as shortcomings.

In general, this history is chronological. I hope that regardless of its imperfections, this history will provide insight into the parish's fascinating past.

Vera H. DeWolf

## ST. ANTHONY OF PAUDA

St. Anthony's parish is under the patronage of St. Anthony of Padua. St. Anthony lived in the 1200's and was strongly influenced by St. Francis. At fifteen, Anthony entered the Order of Regular Canons of St. Augustine near Lisbon. Two years later he was sent to the convent of the Holy Cross of the same Order at Coimbra. After eight years of intense studies, he was inspired to follow the footsteps of the Franciscan Order. After preaching to the Moors in Africa, he became severely ill and became obliged to return to Spain, but his desire to see St. Francis took him to Assisi where he was made a professor of theology. Finally he gave up teaching and devoted himself entirely to preaching. He labored hard to preserve monastic discipline.

St. Anthony was acknowledged by many to be a person of incredible holiness and wisdom. Many miracles were attributed to his intercession. He died on June 13, 1231 – and is known as the patron of the poor.

*St. Anthony, pray for us that we trust God to lead and guide us, not according to our plans, but His glory alone.*

## IN RECOGNITION AND GRATITUDE

Whatever the shortcomings of this history, they would have been much more without the generous help, advice and comments of those on whom I relied.

Fr. Dennis O'Donovan  
Fr. Dave Guttman  
Jim Shores  
Dale Goodrick  
Jerry and Mary Wieber  
Morrie DeWolf  
Michael DeWolf  
Mary Eagle

### GOD BLESS YOU ALL

A special THANKS to my friend, Mary Wieber, for her generosity in helping with the many office duties, especially during the times that I was away. Mary's talent for keeping things running smoothly and editing a fine weekly bulletin was always appreciated. Without her generous outreach it would have been difficult. God bless you always, Mary!

Also, a big THANKS to Nora Meeuwsen, my friend, on whom I relied many times. During the 60's and 70's, Nora's help in the office, and expertise in contributing ideas and help on the numerous fundraisers, especially the annual parish dinner, was always appreciated and important for the financial health of the parish. Nora was always there for her parish. God bless you always, Nora!

And, I gratefully acknowledge our talented parishioner and artist, Carl Tasa, for his beautiful sketch of the early church and the present church, so nicely depicted on the cover of this parish history. Thank you Carl and God bless you and your family.

I can never adequately thank the people who have helped me in the course of the past three years.

*Love is very  
patient and kind..*

*~ I Corinthians 13:4*

## **IN MEMORY.....**

A number of our parishioners have passed away. To them we owe a debt of gratitude for their hard work and support during the past years. Their strength and faithfulness are qualities we need always remember:

Some of the outstanding parishioners whose service comes to my mind, just to mention a few are:

Art and Laura Flynn, George and Lena Hendricks, Cecilia and George Vuylsteke, Ben and Cecilia Gent, Bert and Julia Heesacker, Ernest Heesacker, Les and Naomi Blem, Mary Rauch, Ada Larsen, Mary Armstrong, Richard (Dick) Hendricks, Norbert Meeuwsen, Helen and Justin (Jiggs) Crunican, Francis Duyck, Theresa Meeuwsen, Andy and Theresa Vanderzanden, Ray and Susie Vanderzanden, Jim Hills, Rene and Gladys Wyffels, Lincoln Hoilien, June Smejkl, Della Benoit, Margeurite Mangold, Jean Warner, Carl Landauer, Claude Sheldon, Joe T. VanDyke, Henry Holzmeyer, Fred and Cecilia VandeBergh, Nanette Cop, Chet and Ann Evansen, Rose Eickhoff, Fermen and Viola McAdoo, Robert Klenke, Rosalia McMahan, William and Viola Sohler, Mary E. Spiering, Viola Jackson, Art and Blanche Guarinello, Lucy Larsen, Connie Wise.

There are many others, who are not mentioned by name, but whom we will always continue to remember for their loving contributions to St. Anthony's parish.

## **FORWARD**

Many who have worked closely with Vera DeWolf cannot help but stand in awe of the energy and dedication she put into her 27 years of service to St. Anthony's. A good many of those years Vera volunteered her time, without compensation – in the midst of caring for her family.

Vera's efforts in compiling this history point to the importance of seeing a parish not just in the present moment but as a community of believers who have fashioned a history, a legacy of passing on faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Many have sacrificed time and energy to make St. Anthony's what it is now - a people of God who continue to welcome anyone fortunate to find their way here, if only for a short while.

Thank you, Vera, for giving so generously of yourself, your time and your love.

Mary Eagle  
(On behalf of St. Anthony's parish)

## **SUMMARY OF OUR PARISH HISTORY 1908-1958**

The history of St. Anthony's Church, Forest Grove, Oregon begins in 1908. Father F.J. Kettenhofen, pastor of Visitation Church, Verboort purchased, in that year, the property now bordered by Cedar Street and Seventeenth Avenue in Forest Grove. There the first Forest Grove church was built. The property included a house which was remodeled to serve as a rectory and a chapel.

In 1909, the Rev. J.P. Buck was appointed as the first resident pastor of St. Philip's parish, Forest Grove, by the Most Rev. Archbishop Christie. The name of the parish was changed from St. Philip's to St. Anthony's by Father Buck at the request of the Catholic Extension Society, through which organization Father Buck received a large donation toward the cost of building a new church. During Father Buck's pastorate in Forest Grove, he was instrumental in building churches in Forest Grove, Cornelius and Gaston.

Father Buck served St. Anthony's of Forest Grove and the attached missions of Cornelius and Seghers (located three miles east of Gaston). A few years later, a chapel was built in Gaston with funds received from the Extension Society. In 1910 the mission of St. Alexander and in 1912 the mission of St. John had become attached to the Forest Grove parish.

When Father Buck was first appointed pastor in Forest Grove, a census of Catholics disclosed seven families – three of which were mixed marriages.

The building, which was erected under the direction of Father Buck, was intended to be the first floor of a future school, but the structure was converted into a church which served the people for 46 years. In building the church, the few families who were here were helped by the parishioners of Verboort, through a donation from Mr. Hill, the well known railroad man, and by the Catholic Extension Society. The church was dedicated on Sunday, August 27, 1911, by Archbishop Christie.

Father Buck was born in a little log cabin located on the banks of the Minnesota River. His parents were both Presbyterians and he was raised in a strict Calvinistic home. It was after he had joined the Catholic Church that he decided to serve the Lord as a priest. He attended the St. John Seminary in Colledgeville, Minnesota, and later transferred to Mt. Angel Seminary.

Father Buck served the Forest Grove parish for eight years and was then assigned to the St. Joseph's Church in Salem. During his pastorate in Forest Grove, he was assisted by the Holy Cross Fathers.

In 1917, Rev. George Campbell succeeded Father Buck as pastor. In 1919, he was succeeded by Rev. E.P. Murphy. Father Murphy was the first president of Columbia University (Now University of Portland). Father H.E. Boesch then served the parish for 20 years, from 1922-1942. Upon Father Boesch's retirement, Father John Larkin was appointed pastor. He was helped by the Benedictine Fathers in taking care of the Forest Grove parish and its two missions. In 1947, Father Daniel O'Connell became pastor. Father C. Shea

succeeded him in 1950. In September 1952, Father Donald Denman was appointed pastor, and was assisted by the Jesuit Fathers of Sheridan, Oregon.

In 1958 Father John O'Callaghan became the new pastor of St. Anthony's. Father James P. Heade succeeded him in 1966, followed by Father Stephen Breitenstein in 1971 and by Father Louis Sohler in 1978. Father Sohler retired in 1982, and continued as Pastor Emeritus until his death in 1986. Father Dennis O'Donovan served as pastor from 1982 until 1989, followed by the present pastor, Father Dave Gutmann.

Time periods that each pastor served at St. Anthony's of Forest Grove during the period of 1908-1990 are as follows:

1908 – Father F.J. Kittenhoffen Administrator  
1909- 1917 – Father J.P. Buck  
1917- 1919 – Father George Campbell  
1919- 1922 – Father E. P. Murphy  
1922 – 1942 – Father H. E. Boesch  
1942 – 1947 – Father John Larkin  
1947 – 1950 – Father Dan O'Connell  
1950 – 1952 – Father C. Shea  
1952 – 1958 – Father Don Denman  
1958 – 1966 – Father John O'Callaghan  
1966 – 1971 – Father James Heade  
1971 – 1978 – Father Stephen Breitenstein  
1978 – 1982 – Father Louis Sohler  
1982 – 1989 – Father Dennis O'Donovan  
1989 - 19\_\_ - Father Dave Gutmann

In 1955 the parish purchased the South Park High School on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Elm Street from the Forest Grove Public School District for the sum of \$71,870. The purchase included a large athletic field, gymnasium, a house and a three story school with auditorium.

In January 1956, work was begun on the remodeling of the auditorium as a proposed church and school. It was planned to have the church ready for services on Easter. The work was well underway when a disastrous fire struck in late February completely destroying the structure.



Plans for the new church were then drawn by Architect Louis Schmerber of Salem. On November 28, 1956 the contract was let to the firm of Limpus and Phelps of Forest Grove for the erection of the new church on the site of the old school. The amount of the contract was \$148,350. The building was completed in 1957.

Key planning committee members included: George Hendricks, Francis Duyck, Jerry Wieber, Lester Blem, Fred Herb and Lincoln Hoilien.

The new and present church was dedicated by Archbishop Edward D. Howard on September 23, 1957. Former pastors attending the dedication included: Father John Larkin, Father George Campbell, Father Dan O'Connell and Father Cornelius Shea.

Father Donald Denman was pastor during this time, and in the years following the fire, he often heard joking remarks regarding the "convenient fire." It was later realized that the structure would not have served the parish as planned. It had not been designed by an architect and probably would not have met building codes. So it became sort of a joke among Father's peers.

Father Don Denman was born in 1914, in Livingston, Montana. He attended St. Mary's Academy in Medford, St. Joseph College, Mountain View, California, Catholic University and St. Edward's Seminary in Seattle where Minor Orders sub-diaconate and diaconate were conferred in 1942. He was the first chaplain for Catholic Girl Scouts while serving at St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland. He was serving at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Astoria when he was transferred to Forest Grove. It was during Father Denman's pastorate that the purchase of the District 15 property and the Smith property east of town took place. And, the present Church was built.

Father Denman is retired and lives at St. John Vianney residence in Beaverton.

Prior to buying the property from School District 15, property east of Forest Grove known as the Smith property was purchased by the parish with the intent of building the new church there. When the South Park High School property was offered for sale at a good price, however, it was decided that the parish should go ahead with this purchase as it would be more likely that a parish school could be a possibility. The Smith property was then sold.

The old St. Joseph's Church in Salem had been razed, and the stained glass windows from the old structure could not be used in the new building plans for that parish. An offer was made to the St. Anthony's Parish, and all the windows were purchased from St. Joseph's Parish for \$1500. The windows were temporarily stored in the barn on the Smith property until the new church building was ready for the installation. As some parishioners contend, "the church was built around the windows." In 1976, the parish contracted with Hauser Studios of Stained Glass, Winona, Minnesota, to have some repairs made to the windows. The remainder of the needed repairs was postponed until 1982 when Richard Dixon, Stained Glass Specialist, Port Townsend, Washington, was hired for extensive repairs. Cost of the project was \$9157. The windows are highly valued for their artistic beauty and are irreplaceable. They were probably designed and crafted between 1890 and 1910 and are valued at over \$100,000. The windows depict lives of the saints in the church and include – The Sacred Heart of Jesus, The Good Shepherd, St. Patrick, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Agnes,

St. Joseph, St. Joan of Arc and St. Anthony. Our parish was indeed fortunate to have been able to claim the windows. Their beauty has enhanced our daily and weekly liturgies.

## SERVICE OF OUR ARCHBISHOPS

The life of a Catholic Parish is intimately connected to the life of its diocese and bishop. A parish partially takes its identity from the diocesan bishop. At very least, the bishop strongly influences the direction, life and ministry of a parish. That also was the case with St. Anthony's in Forest Grove. Before St. Anthony's was even constituted as a parish, three Archbishops served the Archdiocese of Oregon City during the period of 1846-1898. The first Archbishop was Francis Norbert Blanchet who served from 1846-1880; the second was Charles John Seghers, who served from 1880-1884; and the third was William Hickley Gross, C.S.R., a Redemptorist, who served from 1885-1898.

The following Archbishops served the Archdiocese of Oregon City and later the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon from the time that our parish began in 1908. (In 1908, Father F.J. Kettenhoffen, pastor of Visitation Church in Verboort served as administrator of the mission of Forest Grove for one year.)

In 1909 when Father Buck was assigned as the first resident pastor to Forest Grove, Archbishop Alexander Christie was serving the Archdiocese of Oregon City. Oregon City was the See but Archbishop Christie made his residence in Portland. During this time, he obtained permission from Rome to establish the Diocese of Baker because of the great size of the Portland Archdiocese and traveling conditions at that time. Shortly thereafter there began a period of trial for the Archbishop. He was suffering from illness and was being charged of not being truly orthodox. During this time of attacks by unknown sources, the Archbishop made his answer by silence and great dignity. The Archbishop's motto was "Faith and Kindness." His faith was made clear by his conduct during the period of torment through which he passed.

The outstanding event in the last years of Archbishop Christie's term was the Oregon school bill which he faced in a condition of failing health but which resulted in great success. The bill, introduced in July and passed in November, 1922, provided that all normal children must go to public school, or be under severe penalty for failure to comply. The Archbishop fought the bill. The State of Oregon lost the case before the Oregon Supreme Court, appealed to the United States Supreme Court and, finally, lost there in May 1925. Archbishop Christie died just weeks before this news.

His splendid character, his personal charm and the contributions he made to Oregon and to the development of the Catholic Church in Oregon received high regards from the secular press and from various churches. Archbishop Christie is buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, the first Archbishop to be buried in Portland. Archbishop Christie was the fourth Archbishop of Oregon City and served from 1899-1925.

Archbishop Edward D. Howard was the fifth Archbishop of Oregon City from 1926-1928, and the first Archbishop of Portland from 1928-1966. When Archbishop Howard died in 1983, at the age of 105, he was the oldest prelate in the world.

In April, 1926, Archbishop Howard was appointed to the See of Oregon City. He was installed in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland on August 6, 1926. On September 26, 1928 Archbishop Howard's See city was changed by a decision of the Sacred Congregation in Rome, to the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. The Archbishop

immediately began centralizing his Episcopal government by creating a much needed Chancery in the rectory of the Cathedral Church which served the purpose until a separate chancery building was erected, the first in the Archdiocese. He re-organized the St. Vincent de Paul and Holy Name Societies. In 1928, he was able to secure the Catholic Sentinel from private ownership. Catholic education was very important to him and his determination was tested in 1931 in All Saints Church in Portland. That parish had been denied a permit to build a parochial grade school on the ground that the building would conflict with a local zoning ordinance. Archbishop Howard appealed to the courts and won. The first Archdiocesan high school for boys opened in 1939 (Central Catholic).

In 1939 Archbishop Howard was named by Pope Pius XII as an assistant to the Pontifical throne.

He was still in office at age 80 and convened the Fifth Provincial Council of Portland in 1957 and attended the Second Vatican Council in Rome. After having served his Archdiocese for forty years he resigned his See at age 88.

He spent his retirement years at Maryville Nursing Home in Beaverton. During Archbishop Howard's time as Archbishop, there was a marked increase in church attendance. He died on January 2, 1983 and was buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland. His Funeral Mass was telecast live from the Cathedral on January 7, 1983.

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The next appointed Archbishop was Robert J. Dwyer – the sixth Archbishop of Portland in Oregon. He served from 1966 – 1974. He was ordained on June 11, 1932, the first native Utahan ordained for service in the Diocese of Utah.

His appointment to be Archbishop of Portland was made public on December 14, 1966, when at that time he was serving the Diocese of Reno, Nevada. He left his diocese in sound financial condition. The number of Catholics had increased over three times. In Portland he was entrusted with the care of a sizeable Catholic population and a comfortable inventory of churches, colleges, schools and buildings for religious orders. Besides the problems of administration of a large Archdiocese, urgent problems soon appeared. The buildings of needed schools and other projects had required a bank debt of over \$7 million dollars. Archbishop Dwyer undertook an extensive pledge program known as "ACTION," which resulted in the debt being paid off.

The Archbishop was of the old school, which taught that the Bishop should rule, while being responsible to God for his conduct. The 60's were a most trying time for him; he had a kind heart and a strong determination to be just.

Finding his health slipping he resigned on January 22, 1974. At the installation of his successor Archbishop Cornelius Power, he was ill, and his address of welcome was read with great effect by Reverend Willis Whalen. Soon afterward he left for Piedmont, California, where he made a final home.

One of Archbishop Dwyer's pleasures was the writing of columns for the Register System of Catholic papers. He interested himself in matters of art such as the Liturgical Art Society.

He was chairman and editor of the National Catholic Register and was chairman of the Catholic Twin Circle. During his last years he wrote a series about the lives of outstanding figures of the Church called "The Saints Go Marching."

On the morning of March 24, 1976, Archbishop Dwyer died of cancer.

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Cornelius Michael Power was the seventh Archbishop of Portland in Oregon. He was installed at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Portland on April 17, 1974.

During his twelve busy years as the head of this Archdiocese, Archbishop Power accomplished many things. He established an endowment fund to ensure financial stability for the Archdiocese. At the Chancery level, he reorganized various Chancery offices into Vicariates, and established the Office of Ministries and the Family Life Office. He canonically formed the Vicariate for Southeast Asians.

Archbishop Power reorganized Catholic Charities as well as the Catholic Truth Society of Oregon, which has been renamed the Oregon Catholic Press. In addition, he began an annual clergy convention, founded the Oregon Catholic Conference, and held the first Archdiocesan Pastoral Convention (1985).

Setting another precedent within the history of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Power requested the Holy Father appoint two auxiliary bishops and on December 6, 1977, Pope Paul VI named Bishop Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C. and Bishop Kenneth D. Steiner.

On July 3, 1986, Archbishop Power received the approval of Pope John Paul II, and announced his retirement. Archbishop Power is spending his retirement years in Portland.

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William J. Levada was installed as the Eighth Archbishop of Portland in Oregon on September 21, 1986.

All of the Archbishop's great grandparents emigrated to northern California during the 1860's and 1870's. The Oliveira (paternal grandparents) and Nunes (maternal grand father) families from the island of Sao Jorge, one of the nine islands of the Azores archipelago in Portugal and Mahoney (maternal grandmother) and Tierney (paternal grandmother) families from County Cork and County Kilkenny in Ireland. Sometime after 1880, according to census records, Archbishop Levada's great grandfather, John Oliveira, officially simplified the family name to "LEVADA."

William Levada was ordained a priest on December 20, 1961. He served as auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles for three years, and served as Director of Continuing Education for the Clergy in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He also served as President of the Senate of Priests. In 1976 Father Levada was assigned to work for the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith at the Holy See, a position he held for six years. On May 15, 1980, he was given the honorary title of Chaplain of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. In the summer of 1982

Monsignor Levada returned to California to take up duties as Executive Director of the California Catholic Conference of Bishops at the request of his own Archbishop. In February, 1984, he moved to Santa Barbara, where he was assigned as Episcopal Vicar for Santa Barbara County in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. During his years as a member of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, he served on several Conference Committees: Committee of Doctrine, Committee for Pro-Life Activities, Committee for Pastoral Research and Practices, and Committee for a Pastoral Letter Responding to Women's Concerns, as well as the United States Catholic Conference Communications Committee. In September 1985, Bishop Levada was entrusted with the guidance of a reorganization committee for the Archdiocese, reorganizing the Archdiocese administratively into five Pastoral Regions, each to be presided over by an Auxiliary Bishop, and reorganizing the central administrative structure into a Cabinet of Secretariats.

Archbishop Levada was appointed in July 1986, by Pope John Paul to serve as the eighth Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. Prior to his appointment in Portland, Archbishop Mahoney of Los Angeles had just appointed him moderator of the Curia and Chancellor of the Los Angeles Archdiocese (only three weeks before his appointment as eighth Archbishop of Portland in Oregon).

Archbishop Levada presently serves the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon.

Following is an account of the priests I have known and worked with and who have contributed so much to St. Anthony's parish and its community:

### *The Pastorate of Father John T. O'Callaghan*

In 1958, Father O'Callaghan was assigned pastor of St. Anthony's in Forest Grove. A new rectory was built adjacent to the new Church. In 1960, the old Church and rectory located at 17<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street was sold to the United Methodist Church of Forest Grove.

In the summer of 1962, Father John O'Callaghan announced plans for the long anticipated parish elementary school and convent. Father had an Archdiocesan reputation for getting building projects accomplished, and he wasted no time in getting a building committee appointed for the school and convent building project. A pledge drive was organized and construction got underway immediately on the school building. Since the pledge drive did not receive enough in contributions for both the school and convent, it was decided that the convent would be built later when the school debt was paid in full. Father offered the rectory for the sisters' residence and he agreed to move into a small rental on Filbert Street until the convent could be built.

Members of the School and Convent Building Committee were: Les Blem, Francis Duyck, Art Flynn, Maurice DeWolf, Jerry Wieber, Dick Hendricks, Paul Wyffels, Everett Vandehey, Norbert Meeuwsen and Dave Spiering.

It took very few words to describe Father O'Callaghan. He was a kind person. Unselfishly he gave up his home in the parish rectory in order to make the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondolet comfortable. "The Sisters deserve the best that we can offer," he said. A room in the rectory was converted to serve as a chapel. It was particularly important to him that their spiritual needs be met.

It was during this time that I became involved in parish work. The parish had never had a secretary or an accountant. Now, with the new school in operation, it was impossible for Father to carry on without help. The parish could not afford salaried help – it had to depend on volunteers. Our youngest child was of kindergarten age and would be attending kindergarten for two and a half hours daily and, since I was qualified, I offered my services and Father quickly accepted. I learned a great deal about all that goes into the making of a religious vocation, both priest and nun. The sacrificial giving of self was admirable to me.

Father John O'Callaghan was just 10 years of age when his mother passed away. At age 14 he entered the St. Edward's Seminary, Kenmore, Washington. He told of his loneliness and frustrations and yet felt a real calling and wanted to remain a seminarian. He had athletic talents as a baseball player and believed that he would have qualified for major league had he not entered the religious life. He felt a greater need to serve God as priest. His musical talents were enjoyed by all who knew him well. Even though he had no formal musical training, he could play almost any piece requested on the piano. The piano was a very important part of his household furnishings. And, Father soon recognized musical talent in his parishioners. Shortly after the opening day of the new parish school Father asked my son, fifth grader, Michael DeWolf, for his help on the organ and piano in the school music program. (Mike was soon followed by another talented young student, Dean Lemire.) And, several years later, Mike volunteered his talent as organist for the parish choir under the direction of Ardith Normandin, a position he filled for three years. Then, Dean Lemire came forward to serve as the choir organist for the next several years. Other volunteer organists included: Don Schwejda, professor of music, Pacific university, who volunteered his talent for over thirty years, Randy Vandehey, Dorothy Jansen and Mrs. Chet Evansen (Anne) who so faithfully provided the music for the Saturday evening weekly devotions. Music at weekly devotions and Masses was very important to Father O'Callaghan.

School bells rang for most Washington County school children on September 3, 1963, but the children of St. Anthony's parish got an unexpected, one-week reprieve. This was the school year that the parish had dreamed of . . . its own parochial school. The opening date of the new school was delayed until September 9 because the school building was not yet ready. Registration forecast that approximately 105 children would be attending the school, grades 1 through 6. The seventh and eighth grades would be added the next school year. The Sisters of St Joseph of Corondolet had agreed to staff the school. With their provincial head-quarters in California, St. Anthony's school was the first school in the Archdiocese of Portland to be staffed by this community. The Sisters arrived early in August, 1963. Their residence in the converted parish rectory was ready for them – this was to be their home until the convent could be built. Sister St. Joan, principal and teacher for grades 5 and 6, Sister Lois Anthony, grades 3 and 4, and Sister Noreen Francis, grades 1 and 2, made up the first year staff.

September 9 arrived and it was evident that the school building still was not ready. At least two more weeks were needed for completion, however, classrooms were improvised and school opened as scheduled.

The opening day of school was sunny and warm. Excitement and anticipation was in the air. It was a dream come true! The children all seemed on their best behavior. This was a new experience for them. They looked neat and well dressed on their first day of school. A dress code was enforced by the Sisters, Corduroy slacks and shirts with collars, (NO T shirts) for the boys, and skirts and blouses or dresses for the girls, NO blue jeans or sneakers were permitted, leather shoes only. Enrollment in the school included children for the Missions of St. Alexander and St. John whose support and help in building and furnishing the school was significant.

Father O'Callaghan felt strongly that a school would not only strengthen the parish but that it was the aim of the Catholic Church to build up a well rounded character, dealing not only with the spiritual but also the physical person. "This is the reason for the Catholic School system", he said. Not all the parishioners favored the idea of a parochial school, and their lagging support was felt in the parish.

The school was dedicated by Archbishop Edward Howard on Sunday, September 29, 1963.

In the summer of 1966, Father O'Callaghan announced to the parish that the school debt had been paid in full form pledges made by parishioners. In July 1966, the ground breaking ceremony was held for the new convent. It was scheduled to be completed in December of that year. A new pledge drive was organized and construction got underway. The new convent was built large enough for 6 nuns at a cost of \$82,000.

Father John O'Callaghan was proud of the school building and its successful operation. He served his parish well for 8 years and had touched the lives of many people. It was with a heavy heart that he obediently accepted Archbishop Howard's request to move on in September 1966, to serve as pastor at St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Astoria. As a young priest, he had served the Astoria parish as an associate pastor and now he would return to serve as its pastor and leader. Several years later, he was assigned to Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Portland where he died unexpectedly in his sleep in August, 1972.

In May, 1968, Father John O'Callaghan celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest. He was, at that time, the pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Astoria.

Marie Regas, retired and widowed, had served as Father's housekeeper during his Forest Grove pastorate. When he was assigned to St. Mary Star of the Sea parish in Astoria, she agreed to continue her service and later to Our Lady of Sorrows in Portland, where she served until his death. Marie gave of herself to fill a need. It was a ministry to be admired – pay was very little and duties many. She understood him well and offered her services until his end. Marie passed away in April 1991.

On May 25, 1963 James Crunican, son of Justin (Jiggs) and Helen Crunican of this parish was ordained a priest by Archbishop Howard and offered his first Mass in his home parish. He was the only priest ever to be ordained from St. Anthony's. Father James Crunican has



served the Archdiocese well and is at this time pastor of Good Shepherd and St. Michael parishes, Sheridan, Oregon.

### *Pastorate of Father James P. Heade*

Father James P. Heade was Father O'Callaghan's good friend and the next to be appointed to St. Anthony's Parish. Father had served St. James in McMinnville for 12 years. When he arrived on September 6, 1966, he was faced with a school that was struggling financially and a debt of \$82,000 for the convent, which was under construction. When he left McMinnville, he had been able to build a financial reserve – now at St. Anthony's it would be different. But, Father was a good administrator – a frugal person who could always manage to operate in the black. The annual turkey dinners, the bazaars made possible by the ladies from the three Altar Societies, the May smorgasbords served to the public in the old parish gym and, the weekly Sunday evening bingo parties held in the old parish gym, under the leadership of Jack Mishel, were all a good source of financial support. And, there were many good parishioners who generously volunteered their help and financial support to the school and parish.

One of the great fund raisers was the annual turkey dinner and bazaar – a popular fall festivity for the entire community. Long lines waiting to be served were not unusual on the day of the dinner. The public was served in the parish gym. It was “an-all-you-can-eat-at-low- family-prices dinner,” and the parish always needed to plan to serve in the area of about two thousand people. For several years, the turkeys were cooked in the homes of parishioners, and when the Forest Grove bakery facility became available, the effort was made much easier. Men of the parish carved the birds and the ladies made the dressing and cooked the gravy. Homemade pies were served, and Lena Hendricks and her committee made the cranberry relish which became synonymous with the parish dinner. The bazaar included a candy store, grab bags, fancy work store and country store. The many committees always functioned efficiently, and every one in the parish from the sixth grade up was involved.

Early in the spring of 1971, St. Rose's circle of the Altar Society purchased a costume business from the Forest Grove Business and Professional Women's Club. Father Heade and associate pastor, Father McKean, were not in favor of this venture, however, the ladies were allowed to go ahead. The purchase price was \$500 and, since the ladies didn't have the required \$100 down, Bob Schneider of Forest Grove Memorial Chapel made the payment. Bob was not a member of the parish, but he wanted the costume business to remain in Forest Grove to help promote a better Gay 90's celebration in the years to come.

The purchase was completed just a couple of weeks prior to the Gay 90's Festival. The ladies quickly set up their shop in the Knights of Pythias Hall, and that first year 220 costume items were rented for the festival. Within a couple of years, the business was moved to the former vacated Haney Truck Line office and, in 1973, the shop was moved to the parish rectory basement. The costume business supplied rental costumes, not only for the Gay 90's annual festivities, but other various celebrations in the Washington County area. Beulah Spiering, Anna Marie Moore and then parishioner, Maureen Bruers offered their leadership in this venture.

Father Heade was born in Duleek County Meath, Ireland on November 25, 1900. He spoke with a delightful accent and always had much to share of his Irish heritage. Before he entered the priesthood he had been in the business world and his experience in that area was beneficial to St. Anthony's. He was forty years of age when he was ordained a priest in 1940 by Archbishop Howard. He served 31 years as a priest. Father Heade owned a nice house on the Umpqua River – out of Reedsport, which served well as a “time off” haven for him and which he so generously offered to his parishioners. It was his way of showing his appreciation to his parish members.

It was during Father Heade's pastorate at St. Anthony's that Catholic Churches the world over were involved in a number of significant changes as a result of Vatican II. A turning point was reached in our Catholic faith. The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) embraced the Pope's vision of a renewed Church seeking greater unity. The suddenness of the changes shocked the Church's members and plunged the Church into a period of turmoil. Following the death of Pope John XXIII, the next Pope elected was Pope Paul VI, a great modern pontiff who skillfully balanced tradition in guiding the Church through one of its most critical transitions. It was a difficult time for clergy and laity.

Pope Paul VI's successor was Pope John Paul. He served for only 38 days. Pope John Paul II was chosen to be the next Pope – the youngest Pope in over a century and also broke a long standing tradition because he was a non-Italian Cardinal from communist Poland.

Father Heade fully supported the changes in the Church even though he felt some of the changes came too quickly. “Perhaps,” he said, “too much is tried too soon and could result in too far off in left field.” But, he felt strongly that, given time, the changes would strengthen the Catholic Church.

During this time, the Folk Mass was instituted as a regular part of the Sunday worship. Children from the school and Religious Education Program under the direction of the nuns provided the Folk Mass music which was acclaimed by the younger set. The Sunday 9:00 a.m. Masses were regularly scheduled as Folk Masses. Other changes included: The priest facing the people as Mass was celebrated, Mass in the English language, responsive readings, lay people serving as lectors, proclaiming the Word of God – and lay people becoming more involved in the affairs of the parish. The Altar railings were removed and the faithful stood at the Altar to receive Holy Communion. The Saturday evening vigil Mass was implemented. The Saturday evening weekly devotions were discontinued. All these changes came about as a result of Vatican II. The changes were intended for and resulted in greater laity participation at Mass.

With the Missions of St. Alexander and St. John and the operations of a school in addition to parish responsibilities, it soon became evident that Father had too heavy a load. Archbishop Howard assigned a young priest, Father Bill Hamilton, just out of the seminary, as Associate Pastor in June, 1967. the children of the parish were especially delighted with Father Bill's presence. He served for one year only before being assigned to a Portland parish. There he continued his education in Social Science. Father Bill had a real yearning to work with problem boys and achieved that goal by being named the director of St. Mary's Home for Boys in Beaverton. He served in that capacity for a number of years. About fifteen years after leaving St. Anthony's, Bill Hamilton left the priesthood to serve as a lay person.

Father Anthony Gussin was the next associate pastor serving for just one year from 1968-69. Father was newly ordained, when he was assigned to Forest Grove. After leaving St. Anthony's, he was assigned to Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Oswego and later he served as administrator at St. Mary's Parish in Vernonia. In 1978 he took a leave of absence to work outside the Archdiocese.

Father Louis McKean was then appointed as Associate Pastor at St. Anthony's. He served from 1969-72. A former Trappist Monk, he was a prayerful person and served the people tirelessly. His hobby and talents included wood carving. His shop was set up in the rectory garage and provided a bit of daily relaxation. He was admired for his patience and deep devotion as a priest. After serving as associate pastor for Father Heade, and later for Father Breitenstein, he was appointed as pastor of St. Phillip's Parish in Dallas, Oregon. Father McKean was born in Alexandria, Louisiana. He was ordained in Reno, Nevada, in 1947 and incardinated in the Archdiocese of Portland in 1976. He is presently retired and living in Chula Vista, California.

The Jesuit priests from Jesuit High School in Portland were a good source of weekly help during Father Heade's pastorate, at which time the missions of St. Alexander's and St. John's were still attached to St. Anthony's. Father John Dunn, SJ was the most frequent visitor to our parish and was warmly received by the parish. Father Dunn was loved by all, and after his retirement as a teacher at Jesuit High School he returned to the parish to help with Masses so that Father could enjoy vacation time. Other Jesuit priests who helped out in the parish were: Father John Kimball, Father Daniel Weber, Father Joseph DeJardin, Father Howard Morrison and Father Emmet Carrol.

During this time the school was operating well, The Sisters, however, expressed some concern that enrollment was only 110 Students – grades 1 through 8. Capacity was 160 students. The Parent's Club was a good source of direction and support. A Thrift Shop under the direction of Ethel Nordgren and Willa Hendricks helped provide needed financial assistance. Annually only \$100 per family in tuition was charged.

In addition to high academic standards, outside curricular activities included: The annual Gay 90's participation in which the school won a number of "best float" contests, competitive sports, nursing home visitation and, the OMSI Science Fair. The annual "Spring Sing" presented by the children's choir, as well as the pageants and May processions were always nicely presented.

In the 1965-66 school year the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades were added and in June, 1966, the first 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation class ceremonies were held. Graduating were: Fauna Spiering, Billy Vandehey, Joseph Henry, Sandra Evers, Diane Conrad, Patricia Conrad, Mary Kempen, Patrick Wieber, Louise Harris, Mary Greer and Gloria Meeuwsen. It was a proud and joyous time for St. Anthony's Parish!

In early January 1967, construction of the new convent was completed and the Sisters were moved into their new home. Father Heade was then able to move into the rectory. With the help of the Parent's Club and, the generosity of parishioners, the convent was nicely

furnished and was greatly appreciated by the Sisters. A new automobile was also provided for the Sister's transportation.

In December, 1966 Archbishop Edward D. Howard retired. Robert J. Dwyer was then appointed as the sixth Archbishop of Portland in Oregon.

In 1967, the Chancery Office, under the direction of Bob McQuarry, business manager, introduced the Money Minder System which was to be a uniform Archdiocesan accounting system. Following seminars and training sessions, it became a mandatory way of accounting. All incomes and expenditures were coded and transmitted by way of input sheets to the Chancery at the end of each month. A monthly and year to date financial print out was returned to the parish. It served parishes and the Chancery well until individual computers became the popular and more efficient way.

Until this time, the parish office was located in the "old ag building." (The ag building was located on the site where the parish center is now located.) It consisted of a basement structure with floor drains to drain the build up of water during the rainy season. It was a cold and wet place and it was not unusual to hear the water trickling down the drain located by my desk. The office was then moved into the former chapel room in the rectory. The move was greatly appreciated – a much improved environment and much more accessible to the people.

Father Heade's friend, Rose Wilkie, was hired to serve as housekeeper and cook, now that there would be room in the rectory. It was a relief to have an excellent cook take care of Father since he was a diabetic and needed a special diet. The associate pastor (Father Bill) enjoyed the good cooking and home-like atmosphere which Rose provided.

Dora Gilman took over the housekeeper's duties after Rose Wilkie left in 1970. Dora a religious Pentecostal was gifted as an artist and musician. She served the parish for nine years. One room in the rectory was converted into her studio where she spent countless hours at her hobby. In 1982, she left her job and moved on to Westport, Oregon to be near her church and pastor. The parishioners and pastors during that time will always remember little "Mitzi" and her aggravating "yipping." Mitzi, Dora's little dog, was her pride and joy.

In 1969 Sister James Joseph, a member of our school staff, was the first Nun from her Order in Oregon to wear the new habit – street length dresses or suits. Within a few months, all 4 Sisters were wearing the new street length habits. It was welcomed by all- laity and religious.

At a special meeting on November 11, 1970, the parish received a chilling announcement that the Sisters of St. Joseph would be withdrawing for the next school year. Parishioners attending the meeting were stunned beyond belief! Sister Katherine of the Apostolic Board of Los Angeles came here for the meeting and explained that the drastic step was being taken reluctantly, due to a vocational crisis in the Catholic Orders. Most important she said was the need of the Sisters for community – the inspiration and reinforcement which could not be gained by 4 Sisters far from their mother house.

There were a number of reactions from parishioners including that there should have been a warning, and a probationary period in which anything remiss could have been corrected. Had there been too much negativism, too much criticism by those opposing the operation of a school? If the school had been operating at a higher capacity, would that have made a difference?

To seek help from other orders would only have been a stop gap. All orders were suffering from the same problems as the St. Joseph group. However, several other orders were contacted regarding the possibility of staffing the school - all to no avail. Father Heade was well aware that church schools were fading from the picture in other parishes. The people of the parish as well as their pastor would feel a real loss, "because in the school system children grow up with the church as a vital part of their everyday life, not just as a Sunday thing or after school study," he said. It was the feeling of most of the parishioners that if the school had been enrolled to capacity, the Sisters of St. Joseph would not have been withdrawn.

It soon became evident that the laity would have to assume responsibility for the education programs in the parish. In fact, it began to be viewed as an opportunity for the people of the parish. At St. Anthony's the Sisters had provided the spark, now the parish must carry on. The lay people would have to provide a Catholic education for its adults, youth and children.

Under the direction of the Archdiocese, Father Heade immediately laid plans for the formation of a Parish Council. Individual committee functions and commissions would be provided. Lloyd Duyck, member of the Mission of St. Alexander, was appointed by Father to serve as the first president of the newly formed Council. Jim Hills was appointed as the Council Steering Committee chairman and, with the help of the committee drew up the Parish Council Constitution and By-Laws which were approved by the parish members. Other appointees were as follows: Vice President ~ Ray Giansante, Treasurer ~ Dave Spiering, Parish and Family Life ~ Bob Vandebergh, Maintenance ~ Everett Vandehey, Liturgy Commission ~ Bob Klenke, Members -at-Large ~ Bob White, Al Vuylsteke and Elmer Vandehey. In the future there would be a nominating committee and elections held with the entire parish participating as stated in the new Parish Council Constitution.

It was during the 1970-71 Fiscal Year that the Archbishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal was introduced by then Archbishop Robert Dwyer. Each parish in the Archdiocese was given a pledge goal. Early in November Commitment Sunday was held, when parishioners were asked to pledge their gift for the coming year. The program was successful and the appeal brought in funds to offset approximately 30% of the Archdiocesan operational budget at that time, making it possible to fund various programs and services. It continues to be a very effective program in 1990. The appeal continues to raise funds to help provide the services of the Archdiocese, specifically the Pastoral Center, care of retired priests, seminary education, support for Hispanics, Asian and Korean Communities, Catholic Schools and Campus Ministries. It is a good program and supports the work of the Archbishop and Archdiocese in Western Oregon. The people of St. Anthony's annually make a prompt response by meeting their goal, and often exceeding it.

Prior to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal an extensive pledge program, "ACTION" was implemented in the Archdiocese under the direction of then Archbishop Dwyer. The parishes were heavily indebted as a result of building much needed schools and other building

projects during the 1960's. The archbishop's "ACTION" resulted in the payment of the debt of \$82,000 from the building of the convent, it was paid in full prior to Father Heade's retirement.

The first Parish Council meeting was held on May 24, 1971, at which time Father Heade announced that he would be retiring on July 1, 1971. Father Stephen Breitenstein had been appointed by Archbishop Dwyer to serve at St. Anthony's Parish effective July 1, 1971.

Father James Heade was 72 years of age when he retired. He had some health concerns and looked forward to enjoying his home on the Umpqua River. He shared his feelings many times regarding his decision to retire. He would remain active in the Church by offering weekend and vacation help to other priests so they could enjoy some free time. He had only one stipulation, and that was regarding his dog "Patti" who must be welcome to accompany him no matter where he went. Patti was a black spaniel, with a white rim around his neck (religious collar) which drew many comments from Father's priest friends. Patti always accompanied his master and, always sat in the front seat next to his "best friend."

It was a cold and rainy day in January 1973, when Father Heade stopped by at the parish office. He had just finished an appointment at the doctor's office and had learned that he was suffering from heart angina. It was a shock to him. I invited him to stay and spend the night since the weather was worsening, but he said that he was expected in Salem that evening and he felt that he had better go on. The next morning we had word that upon his arrival in Salem he had suffered a heart attack and had died instantly. The entire parish was greatly shocked. He would be missed! A priestly image – a wise and dedicated man. He had served his God and vocation with integrity and love. And, now he would be with our Lord and also his good friends and colleagues – Father John O'Callaghan and Father Dan O'Connell who had also previously served at St. Anthony's Parish.

### *Pastorate of Father Stephen N. Breitenstein*

Father Stephen N. Breitenstein was born and raised on a farm in Sublimity, Oregon. He attended St. Boniface grade and high school in Sublimity and attended St. Edward's Seminary in Kenmore, Washington for eight years. His final four years of study were at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Catholic University in Washington D.C. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in Portland on May 30, 1942.

Father Breitenstein arrived at St. Anthony's Parish on July 10, 1971, to take over the duties vacated by retiring Father Heade. He had served St. Peter's Parish in Portland for three years. Being a country boy, he welcomed the change from urban Portland. When Father Breitenstein arrived in Forest Grove, he pledged to become involved in parish life and help foster the good community feeling and understanding. With the closing of the parochial school, Father came prepared to increase the already active church school program.

It was at Father's first Parish Council meeting – July 1971 – that Father Bill Hamilton, our former associate pastor and now at this time the director of St Mary's Home for Boys, came and presented his wishes and plans for leasing the former parish convent as a home for boys specially selected for participation in a program to help them integrate back into society. Father Breitenstein fully supported the request for a program of this type and, following a feasibility study, a contract was signed. The convent was named "Anthony Achievement House." It was a successful program, but after three years the contract was cancelled due to a lack of State funding.

During Father Breitenstein's pastorate at St. Anthony's parish, Father Louis McKean continued to serve as associate pastor until 1972, when he was assigned as pastor to St. Phillip's parish in Dallas, Oregon. Father Stephen Batory was appointed the next associate pastor. He served for just six months. Father Batory had been in residence at St. Francis of Assisi in Portland and had taught school at North Catholic High School before coming to St. Anthony's. When he left Forest Grove, he was assigned to St. Joseph's in Salem before his first pastorate at St. Michael's Church in Sandy, Oregon in October, 1973. He had been incardinated in the Archdiocese of Portland in 1973. After Father Batory left St. Anthony's Father Breitenstein felt that an associate pastor was no longer needed at St. Anthony's.

Sister Davia Elliott, a Holy Name Sister, arrived in September 1971, to serve as St. Anthony's first Religious Education Coordinator. Arrangements were made that we provide Sister with an automobile and that she commute from Verboort where she would live with the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon. Sister Davia was well qualified and served the Missions of St. Alexander and St. John as well as St. Anthony's, tirelessly. Her program included grades K-12 as well as program secretarial duties. Volunteer teachers came forward and enjoyed working with Sister. In March 1973, when Sister presented her letter of resignation, parishioners and Parish Council were greatly concerned; it was at a prior Council meeting that she had stated that it was impossible for one person to handle an entire program, including grades K-12 for St. Anthony's, St. Alexander and St. John. Her resignation was a loss to the parish. Had the pastor and the people of the parish failed to see her need?

Marlene McGrath became the next Religious Education Coordinator during the period of 1973-76. Marlene was the first lay person to serve as a religious education coordinator at St. Anthony's. The high school Youth Group was headed by parish volunteers and at one time a Jesuit Scholastic conducted weekly sessions for the students. After one year, Marlene asked that she work on a part time basis. Council approved. A home education consultant from the parish was hired to work with parents and students in the home. The program did not work. Meanwhile, there was a concern in the parish regarding Pacific University students. Campus Ministry was needed. A faith enrichment program for the adults of the parish was also on the list of priorities.

Marlene McGrath resigned and was replaced by Margaret Wills of Beaverton, who served the parish for three years until September 1979. Her program included grades K-8. The high school program remained under the direction of parish volunteers. The Education commission expressed its concern for the junior high students – attendance was down.

Classes for grades K-6 were held in the convent which at this time was re-named “Anthony House.”

Council agreed to accept the proposal that a young couple attending the Optometry School at Pacific University be allowed to live in Anthony House in exchange for working as caretakers. This proved beneficial for the parish and continued for several years.

The annual turkey dinner continued to be a popular fund raiser in the parish. In 1972, ham was added to the annual turkey dinner and take-out dinners were introduced, which made the annual event an even greater success.

From 1972 to 1975 the school building was leased to School District 15 for the use of two daily kindergarten sessions, and at that time, District 15 made arrangements to purchase all desks and equipment left from St. Anthony’s School. Following the expiration of that contract, Portland Community College leased the school building for four years from 1975 to 1979, to include four classrooms, two offices and one room in the Ag building and gym.

In 1973, Father Breitenstein presented to Council his wish to offer the use of the rectory as a storage cupboard and collection depot for the Forest Grove FISH program. Council agreed. The FISH cupboards remained in the parish for three years and continued to serve the needy in the community.

Then, 1977, when the Forest Grove Senior Center lost its meeting place at the United Church of Christ, Father Breitenstein again came forward offering the use of the parish gym as a meeting place until the seniors could raise enough money for a building of their own. After a variety of hassles with city zoning and fire safety committees, the move was approved. In addition to providing a meeting place, Father constantly encouraged the people of the parish to become involved in the senior program by helping with the daily delivery of meals on wheels to shut-ins as well as other areas of needed help. Our altar Societies – St. Rose and St. Ann – volunteered weekly help in the program. Since that time, the parish has continued with its monthly donation to the center to help with operational costs.

Following Archbishop Dwyer’s resignation in January 1974, (due to his health), Cornelius M. Power was the seventh Archbishop to be appointed to the See of Portland in Oregon. He was installed at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Portland on April 14, 1974.

LOVE (Locate Our Vietnamese Evacuees) was another parish outreach in our community. In 1975, the parish participated with the non-Catholic community to help a family of seven with rent, food, utilities and other living expenses until employment could be arranged.

Sister Mary Trainor, a Holy Name Sister was hired as the first parish Adult Education Coordinator in July 1976. She had previously worked at Holy Trinity Parish in Beaverton for seven years. Members of the Education Commission were very impressed with Sister’s credentials, and after Father Breitenstein had received a candid report from the pastor at Holy Trinity, Sister was hired to begin work in our parish on July 1, 1976 as Adult Education Coordinator. Her responsibilities addressed high school, college and other phases of parish ministry. Sister asked the people of the parish to give ideas on what they want in the adult



education program. Within a few weeks a good number of adults were attending a weekly Bible Study. High school students were instructed by volunteers from the parish under Sister's direction.

Sister Mary was deeply involved in the Charismatic Renewal. "Life in the Spirit" seminars and weekly prayer meetings were being held and involved a good number of the people in the parish. Retreats were scheduled and well attended. Non-Catholics of all faiths were included in the Charismatic Movement. The community grew in numbers. Father Breitenstein was open to the renewal, however, he was concerned that it could tend to overshadow the parish and, have a divisive effect on the parish, It was evident that the renewal was not for all people. During the remainder of Father's time at St. Anthony's the Charismatic Renewal continued to grow and enrich the faith of its people.

Parish Council functioned well under Father Breitenstein's leadership. The various commissions were well represented and active. The Liturgy Commission continued to regularly schedule the Folk Group for the Sunday, 9:00AM Mass. The traditional choir provided music for the special celebrations as well as the 11:00AM Masses on Sunday and combined with the Folk Group for special Holy Week, Easter and Christmas liturgies. Steve Dierickx and John Krebsbach volunteered their talents and leadership in the Folk Group.

In 1976, the first Holy Thursday Washing of Feet ceremony was enacted by Father, with Council members participating.

Lectors were trained to proclaim the Word of God (husband and wife team lectors was implemented). A welcoming committee to greet people as they came to Mass was active and an ushers program was formed. The first communal reconciliation service was held during Holy Week in 1976. Marriage Encounter was supported by Father and Home Masses were popular among our parishioners. The social Action ministry, in addition to its FISH food cupboards, became the supply center for blankets and warm clothing for the poor, food baskets for needy at Christmas time, and financial aid was provided to the Pioneer Boys' Home in Forest Grove.

Father Breitenstein met with the ladies of the Altar Society. The Constitution was rewritten. Father reminded the ladies that their main objective was to take care of the Altar which included linens and flowers for the weekend Masses. For many years, then parishioner Mary Armstrong lovingly cared for the altar Linens. Mary was 102 years old when she passed away. She had served her Lord for many years. Mary had been a daily-Mass Catholic.

Flowers were always available from the gardens of parishioners, Rose Eickhoff, Minnie Holzmeyer and Lena Hendricks. Officers were elected annually. St. Rita's Circle dissolved due to lack of membership. The ladies of that circle merged with either of the other Circles. The ladies met monthly and, were in charge of wedding receptions, funeral luncheons, bazaars, catering special dinners, annual plant and rummage sales, and providing meals for shut-ins or families with a member in or just out of the hospital. (These were some of the numerous ministries served by the ladies of our Altar Society during this time.)

Church Women United, a new ecumenical movement which involved women of all faiths, working for justice in the community received added support from Father. Council agreed to

pay annual dues to the organization. Lily Ann Hamel, a member of the parish, was very active, and with Father's support, a number of the ladies of the parish became active participants.

Father met with the ladies of the Thrift Shop to determine whether or not they felt that the store should continue its operation. The ladies agreed that the Thrift Shop was a good community service as well as a fellowship with other ladies in the parish. They hoped for greater parish participation. The ladies agreed to continue the business. In addition to the shop, the ladies had a good "rag" business going. Rags were cut to specifications and sold by the pound to Gray and Company and Flavorland Foods to be used in maintenance of plant and equipment.

In March 1975, council approved a renewal program for the parish – Movement For A Better World. (MBW). The one week renewal was conducted by a team of three clergy and was a big success. The MBW was founded by a Jesuit priest, Father Ricardo Lombardi. Committees were formed. The parishioners from Roy, Verboort and Cornelius were invited to join in the renewal. The message preached during the renewal was directed toward a new life and deeper unity within the church and, through the church, in the whole world. Attendance was excellent, Father Breitenstein felt that the renewal was a voice challenging the people of God to live anew the Gospel message. It was a unifying time for St. Anthony's Parish; however, it lacked a follow-up to challenge participants to continue to develop in the MBW experience.

During this time (1973) the separation of the Missions from Forest Grove took place. A year prior to the separation, plans were formulated for the building of a parish center at St. Alexander's Parish. Under the direction of the Archdioceses, a property settlement agreement was worked out and accepted by St. Alexander's parish. A sum of \$50,000 over ten year period was paid to St. Alexander's of Cornelius and \$500 plus a \$325 bequest from the Dietrich family was paid to St. John's Parish of Gaston. Father Frank Knusel was the first appointed pastor to St. Alexander's Parish. He was later replaced by Father Arnold Beezer, S.J. Father David Rochon was appointed to the Gaston parish. Lloyd Duyck, Parish Council president and Al Vuylsteke, member-at-large resigned, to serve in their newly independent parish – St. Alexander's in Cornelius, Oregon.

In 1973 taxes on church property or buildings or any portion thereof, used for administrative, education, literary, benevolent or charitable purposes, as well as worship, recreational and entertainment purposes became tax exempt in Washington County, Oregon. We could now claim exemption for office, counseling, and other administrative space in our rectory. At this time the parish rectory had an assessed valuation of \$45,400 and \$5,200 for the land. Our taxes had been in the area of \$1,118 annually.

The Costume Shop flourished and continued to be a good community service for the many participants who enjoyed dressing up for the annual city wide Gay 90's celebration. The

business expanded to other types of celebrations and provided a good source of activity the year round. The ladies of the parish were to be commended!

The parish maintenance committee relied on volunteers to keep things running in the parish. Annually, work crews were organized to clean up the parish grounds, as well as keep the furnace room, furnace and other maintenance areas in running order. In 1978, Council agreed that a maintenance man was needed. Homer Rose was the first person to be hired. After two years he resigned and Don Bruers took over the job. When he moved to Vernonia, Rene Wyffels took over. The old furnace was a big part of the parish maintenance job and Rene was an expert in keeping it maintained. He spent many more hours than he accounted for. A true "Mr. Fixit", there was nothing that Rene couldn't keep in repair. He served the parish for twelve years and resigned due to failing health. He had served the parish well! And, as a young parishioner expressed it, "When I grow up, I want to be just like Rene."

A number of maintenance projects were completed during Father Breitenstein's pastorate: new church kneelers, a church microphone system, repairs and maintenance on the church windows, extensive roof repairs on the school building and black topping were some of the projects.

In October 1977, all playground equipment left from the former parish school was sold to the Forest Grove School District 15 for \$600.

A concern left behind by Father Breitenstein was how to best utilize Anthony House (the former convent). Many ideas and suggestions were expressed. Among them remodeling it into a home for senior citizens or selling it. It was not suitable as a rental. Some parishioners felt that it would be suitable remodeled as a parish center. The parish felt that it had a "White Elephant." A feasibility study was needed.

Father Breitenstein, a quiet and unassuming leader, held a special place in the hearts of many. He made his mark in the non-Catholic community – always interested in helping someone in need. And, now he had been asked to move on to St. Francis of Assisi Parish, in Roy, effective April 13, 1978. When he had arrived in Forest Grove seven years earlier, he was faced with the important task of upgrading the parish education program which had suffered the loss of St. Anthony's School. Now the parish education program was going well. Shortly before Father left, he expressed a reminder to Council that its best interest is to serve the parish, to help the parish come alive spiritually and not to have to worry about figures in order to carry out the needed programs. Father said, "Do what we can to help people respond to the will of God, and then God will direct us as He wants us to move." Father Breitenstein felt that the Holy Spirit was moving powerfully within the parish and, "We must do nothing to block Him," he said.

A parish potluck honoring Father was held. Parishioners said their goodbyes and had a chance to thank Father for all that he had done. Mary Flaig, a talented parishioner, wrote the following Ode and presented it to Father:

*Our sincere best wishes we send in rhyme...  
To our dear pastor, Father Breitenstein.  
To Saint Francis parish you must go...  
Our young and old will miss you so...*

*Under your guidance and love – we don't  
Mean maybe...Here at Saint Anthony's parish  
WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY...  
Your sermons are BEAUTIFUL – just like a song...*

*But sometimes like Easter confessional lines  
They're much too long  
Marriage Encounter, Home Masses, Charismatic Meetings and such,  
Have inspired and enriched  
Which we all needed much.*

*We know it's hard to leave this place...  
But the sign of love shows on everyone's face  
Though this is your last supper we're sharing with you*

*We can't deny we're going to miss YOU.  
You are leaving soon...PLEASE keep in touch or  
Like the people in Roy,  
You'll be in Dutch!!*

INDEED, WE HAD COME A LONG WAY!

## *The Pastorate of Father Louis H. Sohler*

Father Louis Sohler arrived at St. Anthony's parish on the afternoon of April 13, 1978 and, as he began getting unpacked, the phone rang. There had been a death in the parish and he was needed to schedule a funeral. The Sacrament of Confirmation was scheduled to be held within two weeks and several baptisms were on the calendar. The move to Forest Grove was a smaller parish and could have been looked on as a step to retirement, but Father Louis had no time or intention of resting.

Father Louis Sohler was born in Banks, Oregon in 1910. His father owned and operated a saw mill near Banks. Louie had six brothers and sisters. At age seven, the family moved to Hillsboro where he attended St. Matthew's school. Later he attended St. Mary's school in Beaverton (then operating as a high school). He enjoyed sports and was a member of St. Mary's squad.

Father entered the seminary at Menlo Park, California, continued his studies for five years, and then took four years of theology at St. Edward's Seminary in Seattle, Washington. He and Archbishop Power were classmates in St. Edward's Seminary. Father also earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Sulpician Seminary in Seattle.

Father Louis was ordained on June 3, 1939, and served as associate pastor at St. Mary's Church in Eugene, then on to serve as pastor at Cottage Grove, Oregon. In 1947, he was assigned as pastor to Springfield, Oregon. When Father arrived in Springfield, he found no church and only a handful of Catholic people among the 3,000 living in the then small town. At that time, Springfield was a small Ukrainian mission. Thirty-one years later he left Springfield and St. Alice Parish, an architectural prize winning church built in 1965. The parish that began with 100 families had grown to 800 with a school, grades K-8. The school was staffed by lay people, and was one of the few that thrived despite the decline and withdrawals of the church's teaching orders.

When Father left Springfield, he received a letter of commendation from then Governor Bob Straub. "Springfield will never be the same without you. There was not a civic or charitable activity in which you did not participate or contribute." He also received a certificate of distinguished service from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and a letter of commendation from the Boy Scout organization awarding him the St. George medal for outstanding service in scouting.

Father Sohler was a quiet man, a doer, not a talker. In Forest Grove, he quietly became a member of the community. It was evident that he had health problems and would need the help of his parish, which he received in an exemplary way. Before Father's arrival, members of the liturgy commission and Council president, Frank Buckiewicz visited Father's former parish in Springfield and extended a welcome to Father Sohler as new pastor of St. Anthony's Parish – a gesture he greatly appreciated.

When he arrived in Forest Grove, he found that the parish gym was housing the Senior Center of Forest Grove. The former school building provided quarters for the Portland Community College's Forest Grove headquarters, FISH cupboards were ensconced in the parish rectory. A parish Council was functioning well and parish education programs were under the direction of a lay coordinator and a Holy Names nun. Father pledged his support to each chairperson and committee person involved in Parish Council.

Father Louis Sohler's official installation in St. Anthony's parish took place on June 4, 1978 and, also at that time, his 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest was celebrated with guests from his former Springfield parish as well as a large group from his Forest Grove parish.

It was at the April 26, 1978, Parish Council meeting that president Frank Buckiewicz introduced the new pastor. At that time (just two weeks after his arrival) 29 candidates had received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The candidates had been trained by three couples in the parish, and Council felt that it had been one of the more beautiful ceremonies experienced in St. Anthony's. First Communion was scheduled for the following Sunday under the direction of the Religious Education Coordinator, Peg Wills. The maintenance committee reported new carpeting was being installed in the parish rectory. Volunteers had finished painting the walls prior to the carpet installation. The involvement of parishioners was impressive to Father Louie.

At the July 1978 Parish Council meeting, the concern for ample space for our education programs as well as other parish needs was discussed. The people of the parish were asked for their ideas. The entire parish was asked for prayers for direction on this problem. Some felt we should sell Anthony House and the lots along Filbert Street and Fifteenth Avenue. It was realized that to remodel Anthony House would be costly and not adequate for long range planning. Council was in agreement that a feasibility study be made by an appointed committee which would include an appraisal of all property, zoning of property, a study of potential sites, and a study of the needs for a new parish center. The study was to include consideration of selling Anthony House or remodeling it to fit the needs of the parish.

Council president Ray Giansante appointed a Committee for a feasibility study: Barbara Chapman, chairperson and to include Dick Bewersdorff, Carl Landauer, Maurice DeWolf, Mike Sheridan, Susie Meeuwse, Tom Johnston and Larry Strong.

St. Bede's Episcopal Church of Forest Grove expressed interest in purchasing Anthony House along with a parcel of land one-half acre in size. They were also very interested in purchasing the land only.

Following a thorough study, the Feasibility Committee presented its report. Two options were presented regarding Anthony House: 1) Retain and renovate to meet the needs of the parish or 2) sell it and use the proceeds toward the construction of a new center. It was agreed that the social needs and the education programs of the parish should be met more adequately.

The committee recommended that a Building Committee and Finance Committee be formed and that the entire report be made available to all parishioners. A special meeting was held with members of the Altar Societies, Thrift Shop, Council members as well as all interested parishioners attending. The parish was aware that St. Bede's was interested in purchasing the property.

The parish was given a chance to vote, and the majority voted to sell Anthony House for \$150,000 to include one-half acre of land and another one-half acre with a ten year option for \$75,000. Shared parking with St. Bede's was not considered a problem, however, it would not be available after the 10 year agreement option expired. It was also the feeling of the parishioners that the vacant lots along Filbert and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue not be sold.

Further, parishioners generally felt that the old parish gym was outmoded, unsafe, considered a real fire hazard and costly to operate.

The proposal was presented to the Episcopalian Building Committee. The Sales Contract with St. Bede's was approved in December 1980. St. Bede's parish would take possession in January 1981.

A building and finance committee was appointed and began to organize a parish pledge drive. The estimated cost of a new parish center would be \$425,000. The pledge drive was organized and the drive was held on February 7, 1982. A total of \$204,693 was received in pledges.

There had been some consideration by Council to acquire the property across the street from the parish rectory to serve as a parish parking lot. The matter was also considered by the Feasibility Committee. No agreement could be reached between the owners of the property and Council.

Nursing Home Masses were implemented and scheduled weekly with the help of parishioners, Carl and Wilma Mayer. The Mayers also faithfully served as Eucharistic Ministers to shut-ins, a ministry which they still continue every Sunday following the 9:00 AM Mass. (In 1990, Carl and Wilma celebrated their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with their family and friends.) Truly a devoted couple – a real example of Christian love.

With Council's request and Father's approval, the Catholic Sentinel was mailed into the home of every registered household at no cost to the parishioners.

The Social Action Commission continued to serve the needy in our community on a daily basis. In addition, Christmas baskets were delivered, and contained not only food but gifts, toys and clothing as well. Very often, Father helped the poor from his own resources. He never turned away a needy person and often expressed his hope that someday a Saint Vincent De Paul (SVDP) operation would be active in Forest Grove to help serve the needy. He saw his wish come true in 1985 when the SVDP ministry at St. Anthony's was started.

In 1979, St. Anthony's parish became regular users of Today's Missal printed and supplied by the Catholic Truth Society of Portland.

Father Sohler enjoyed working with Gary Hardin, a talented parishioner. Gary was helpful in coordinating special liturgies – Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas. He worked with Ardith Normandin, our choir director, and members of the choir. The New Order of the Altar program was implemented which included Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers (communion in hand), and Altar Servers. Lay ministers grew in number (Canon Law prohibited girls from serving as altar servers at this time). In 1978 Gary was instrumental in the renovation of the Sanctuary. New carpet was installed in the Sanctuary and Church aisles. A new Altar, lectern and chairs were built by Ray Giansante and Norbert Meeuwsen. A tabernacle was placed near the people for prayer and veneration. All costs were paid from special memorial donations by a number of parishioners, Cecilia Vuylsteke and Agnes Heesacker made altar coverings for the new Altar.

It was because of the generosity of many of our talented parishioners that our parish could move forward and provide beautiful and prayerful liturgies for its people.

Effective January 1, 1979 the parish office requested and received the approval of Father Sohler and Council that collection envelopes be mailed quarterly to the homes of parishioners. The new system would replace the annual box envelopes and would be a help in maintaining a more updated parish mailing list.

Father Sohler had the cooperation and support of Council and the parish as a whole. In 1979, Gary proposed and received support to restructure the Liturgy Commission into five committees for greater efficiency and a more equitable assignment of duties: lay ministry, music ministry, prayer ministry, art and architecture, and Para liturgy. Each committee was headed by a chairperson and membership was open to anyone in the parish interested in any of the committees.

Gary had left his mark at St. Anthony's parish and he was missed when it became necessary for him and his wife, Janet, to move on.

The parish was provided with regularly scheduled parish missions. The communal penance service was conducted in the parish for Advent and Lenten spiritual preparations. Father was concerned about the lack of interest shown in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and expressed hope that the communal service would increase interest for the people. Communion from the cup was introduced on November 2, 1980 at the 9:00 AM Mass.

Annual turkey and ham dinner guests grew in number. The old parish gym became less safe and involvement in the project became a greater effort. In 1980 Council agreed that no dinner would be held, however, - "In Lieu of Dinner" donations would be solicited from each household. Mike and Gloria Sheridan agreed to serve as chairpersons for the drive. It was a very successful decision – netting over \$7,000. Similarly in 1981, it was council's decision not to have a parish dinner because the parish was in the process of organizing a pledge drive for the new parish center. Parish dinners would not occur again until after the new parish center was completed.

The ladies asked that the costume rental business become a parish project. More involvement was needed.



In the Spring of 1979, concern regarding the children's education program was expressed by members of the parish. President Ray Giansante called a special meeting. All council members, Religious Education teachers and Education Commission members were asked to attend the meeting. The program was under the direction of Peg Wills. Was the program fulfilling our needs? Was it properly coordinated? Peg Wills stated that the limit on one hour in presenting all material to the children is of great concern. Peg Wills saw a real need towards family religious education. The Education Commission was asked for its recommendations. Council felt that it would be an advantage to have a coordinator from within the parish. Father Sohler was concerned.

The high school "Sharing the Faith Group" was also a concern. The students were directed by volunteers of the parish. It became very obvious that we needed a Youth Minister in the parish.

Sister Mary felt that her Adult Education program was holding quite well. She asked for pulpit time and a special Liturgy to help inform the people as to the meaning of the Tuesday night prayer and praise meetings. Father was concerned regarding the Charismatic Renewal, "It is not for everyone," he said.

Peg Wills, Religious Education Coordinator, resigned to take a position with Holy Trinity Parish in Beaverton.

Kathleen and Brad Andrews and family moved to St. Anthony's parish in August of 1979, and "Katy" applied for the religious education coordinator job. Kathleen Andrews and family moved from St. Johns Parish of Milwaukie. Mrs. Andrews had worked as coordinator of the Education Program at St. John's and came highly recommended. Following a decision from the Education Commission, Katy was hired to fill the needs of St. Anthony's. The Family Sunday Education Program Plan for 1980-81 was introduced and used in that school year. This was a two Sunday per month program and was also used in other parishes in the Archdiocese. The program progressed nicely for two years and involved entire families. Workshops were held under the direction of the Archdiocese. Prior to introduction to the Family Program classes were held on Wednesday evenings but were not too well attended. The summer Education Program was introduced and was very successful. The Sisters of St. Mary's of Oregon staffed the one week program for children K-6<sup>th</sup> grades.

Michael Benton submitted his resume for the position of Parish Youth Minister in November 1980, and was hired following interviews with Father Sohler and the Education Commission. He was well qualified and began his ministry in January 1981. Mike served the high school youth and junior high group, as well as the Campus Ministry at Pacific University. He served the young people well, working together with the youth minister from the United Church of Christ to form an ecumenical youth ministry which met occasionally as a group and was enjoyed by the youth. Mike set his priority for the summer months on the college program, making contacts with all age groups. Council felt that Mike's rapport with the students was excellent. With his office in the assistant pastor's quarters in the parish rectory, he was readily available to the students. Working with Father in training the candidates for Confirmation was well received by the students and parents.

Father Anthony Palmasani was appointed Assistant Pastor in August of 1979. Father had studied in Rome and, upon his return, was directed to St. Anthony's parish. He was

welcomed – Father Sohler needed his help. While Father Palmasani was in our parish for one year only, it gave Father Sohler a chance to take a one month leave to tour the Holy Land with several of his priest friends. A year later, Father Sohler was hospitalized for several days. His health was failing, but he was determined to carry on. A committee from the parish scheduled and met with Archbishop Power regarding help for Father. Father Louie's health was not good.

In 1980, the Archdiocese directed that year to be The Year of the Family. Three couples from the parish served as coordinators under the direction of Coordinator, Katy Andrews and included pre-married, singles, leadership couples, single parents, “hurting” families, developing families, as well as all the laity. Monthly home Masses were celebrated with special emphasis on “Families for Prayer.” Father Sohler was very pleased with the successful effort made in building a parish family ministry.

The Altar Societies asked to become one circle due to lack of membership. Father Sohler approved. Now it would be more possible to continue projects and help with the costume shop.

In 1979 The Senior Center moved into its new building on Douglas Street after occupying the parish gym for two years.

Maintenance problems existed. In 1980, it became necessary that the school roof be replaced. It had been a flat roof and required constant repair. Council agreed that a gable type roof be installed. The cost would have been much greater if the men of the parish had not so generously volunteered their time and expertise. Wayne Pillories and Ed Stadelman headed the project, with the help of a number of men of the parish.

The old heating system continued to be an annual expense. Rene Wyffels knew the old boiler and furnace well and was able to save the parish many dollars annually by donating his talent. Very little was spent on contracted services.

The parish office contacted interested oil companies annually to receive bids for the cost of supplying heating oil for the fiscal year. The entire plant was heated by oil with the exception of Anthony House. In 1981 a time clock was installed in the church heating system in an effort to save on fuel oil.

The Church and rectory roofs were in need of repair caused mostly by the growing of moss on the tile. It was evident that soon a new Church roof would be needed. The gym roof was also in constant need of repair and always taken care of by volunteers of the parish.

Father Sohler enjoyed and participated in the annual yard and flower bed clean-up. Parishioners were asked to spend an evening helping on this project. Father enjoyed working side by side with his parishioners.

In the Fall of 1978, priests in the area were contacted regarding help with the Sunday evening Masses. Only one response was received (Father Breitenstein). Council agreed that the Mass served mostly people outside our parish and felt that it tied Father down every Sunday of the month. Early in 1979, the Sunday evening 7:00 PM. Mass was eliminated following a vote by the people of the parish.

The parish gift shop opened in 1978. A glass showcase was purchased and small gift items stocked. The people especially enjoyed the shop for First Communion, Confirmation and Baptism gifts. In 1981 the parish office was relieved when Council agreed to purchase a fire proof safe. Important parish files and records could now be safely stored.

During the time of Father Sohler's pastorate, he looked to Parish Council for help and counsel. The fiscal operating budget always required and received discussion before approval. Each commission submitted its proposed budget for consideration. The Archdiocesan Fiscal Year is from July 1, to July 1. Council spent three months prior to that time in discussing and approving a parish budget for the next fiscal year. It was very important to Father that we remain within the guidelines as directed by the Archdiocese. The annual Archdiocesan Stewardship drive continued and every effort to reach our goal was made.

Elections for Council members continued to be held annually. An appointed nominating committee submitted the names of interested candidates and voting was by ballot which took place during the Sunday Masses. All parishioners age fourteen and over were encouraged to be candidates and to vote.

In 1979, St. Anthony's pledged with the Forest Grove Community to join in sponsorship to help with Indo-Chinese refugees. At that time, 7,000 refugees were permitted into the United States monthly. The parish helped to provide housing, food, clothing, and medical care to a young Cambodian refugee until he became employed. Our parish was very generous in its outreach.

In 1980, the parish received its share of ashes following the eruption of Mt. St. Helen and once again the parish united to help with the cleanup under the supervision of Rene Wyffles. Rene was commended for his outstanding service.

Emmaus Christian School leased our school building for three years beginning in September 1980, until their new facility was built in Cornelius. A lease agreement was signed. The faculty from the school agreed that it would operate as a non-denominational school. The school included grades K-10. Income from the lease was helpful in meeting the annual parish budget.

The STAR Program (St. Anthony's Referral) under the leadership of Mary Wieber was implemented in 1981 and was, without doubt, the most generous outreach program in the parish. The program included baby sitting, meals for a family in need, transportation, helping invalids, etc. Mary coordinated a volunteer group to help parishioners in various areas of need. With the help of an answering service, volunteers were able to answer calls and make help available. The parish became more aware of the needs of the people. Council expressed its gratitude to Mary and her committee for a well outlined plan and loving service to our parish.

The first annual parish picnic was held on the first Sunday in August 1980, at Lincoln Park. The parish enjoyed the get together. A year later it was held at Champoeg Park and then moved to Hagg Lake at which time the beef barbecue was started by Fred Florence and his committee. After a couple of years, the site was moved to Rodger's Park across the street

from the Church. The baron of beef is always delicious and greatly enjoyed by all. Council officially set the date of the get together as the first Sunday in August. The number attending annually has increased since the picnic is held in Forest Grove. Games and fellowship add to the day's festivities. Father Sohler enjoyed the outings and always participated in the games and contests held. Parishioner Fred Florence and his committee continue to be in charge of the beef barbecue. It is always a delicious and successful event.

At the December 16, 1981, Parish Council Meeting Father Sohler announced that he would be retiring early in 1982. Council considered a provision be made that Father Sohler remain in residence at St. Anthony's parish. And, with the consent of the new pastor, Father Dennis O'Donovan, Father Sohler remained as Pastor Emeritus.

Father Louie Sohler spent his life away from the center of attention and yet he inspired so many by his priestly life. He was a life-time member of the Knights of Columbus and served as State Chaplain in the 1950's. At the time of his death he was serving as Chaplain of the Hillsboro Knights of Columbus Council.

Father Sohler passed away on August 13, 1986. He had attended the annual Clergy Convention in Portland with the pastor, Father Dennis O'Donovan. At the evening banquet, Archbishop Power in his address to the clergy paid special tribute to the many good priests whom he seldom saw and yet they are devoted to their parishioners and are loved by them in return. He mentioned Father Sohler by name. A few hours later he was dead.

Father Sohler was one of those whose goodness was almost tangible. It would be hard to imagine that he would ever speak a harsh or unkind word.

May his intercession in heaven bring grace to others to follow in his footsteps.

### ***Pastorate of Father Dennis J. O'Donovan***

Father Dennis O'Donovan arrived at St. Anthony's Parish on Friday afternoon, February 19, 1982. The people of the parish were delighted, and welcomed the young priest's abundance of enthusiasm and dedication. The past few years had been difficult for the parish. Father Sohler's health and memory had been failing, and although he was greatly loved it was difficult for him to meet the needs of the people. The parish yearned for strong leadership. It soon became evident that Father Dennis's time at St. Anthony's would be a turning point in the parish.

It was obvious that Father's Irish ancestry was firmly established by the plaque that hung beneath the crucifix in his office; a beautiful Irish prayer which was often used by Father as a special blessing.

Civic community involvement was important to Father, and soon after his arrival he was received as a Rotarian in the Forest Grove Club. He was the first pastor from St. Anthony's to become active in a city service club.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Father Dennis was the eldest of three children. It was during his senior year in high school that he was encouraged to attend a seminar during spring break to investigate the priesthood. Then following, another seminar and retreat, he entered the Immaculate Conception seminary in Missouri. After his second year in college, he entered the Benedictine Novitiate at the Conception Abbey. After he completed college, he was sent to the daughter house at Mt. Michael Abbey, in Elkhorn, Nebraska, where he completed the Juniorate and made final Benedictine vows. He studied theology at St. Meinard Seminary Indiana, and was ordained in May, 1969. Next he received his teaching credentials and Masters Degree in English at Pittsburg State University. He then returned to his birth state and taught high school for ten years; two summers were spent in Eugene, Oregon, at the University of Oregon. These short stays enticed Father Dennis to the beautiful state of Oregon. Having served two years as associate pastor of St. Mary's parish in Albany, Father Dennis was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Portland in November, 1981 and was then assigned pastor to St. Anthony's where he served for seven and a half years. His goal for the parish was to be unity, friendliness and caring.

And caring was immediately felt in the parish, when Father Dennis kindly asked Father Sohler to remain and serve as Pastor Emeritus (a position that was unprecedented in the Archdiocese). Father Louie was able to help out in the parish in many ways: Masses, nursing home visitations, communion, hospital and home visitations, bible studies, etc. It proved to be helpful for both priests as well as for the people of the parish. Father Dennis valued Father Louie's expertise and counsel, and felt that Father added much warmth and gentleness to the parish.

On the week of Father's arrival, he was pleased to learn that on Sunday, February 21, a first annual ecumenical choir concert would be held. St. Anthony's fine choir, so expertly directed by Ardith Normandin, would join with several other churches in Forest Grove to present a concert for the enjoyment of the community. The concert was well attended and was repeated for several years. It was truly a fine evening's entertainment!

Father Robert Cieslinski, vicar and pastor of St. Matthew's parish in Hillsboro officially installed Father Dennis on Sunday, February 28, 1982 at the 11:00AM Mass. The Mass was followed by a brunch in the parish gym. A large number of parishioners came to offer their support and blessings.

The new pastor opened his first Parish Council meeting with a prayer on Wednesday evening, February 24, 1982. He was briefed by Council President, Ken Gratteri, and Council members and chairpersons of the various committees. The church windows had been scheduled for an extensive repair job by Richard Dixon, Stained Glass specialist of Port Townsend, Washington, at a cost of \$9,157. And, construction of the new parish center was facing the pastor. Two weeks prior to his arrival, a building fund pledge drive had been held, and now members of the committee were preparing to again call on those who had not pledged when the drive was held. Mike Sheridan and Bob Colfelt served as chairmen for the pledge drive. Don Winkler headed the building committee and Ed Stadelman served as chairman of the contractor's committee. A decision was made, that the new building would

be placed next to the church for a more functional and united feeling and, greater fellowship. Fischer, Wallin and Long of Portland were selected as the architect, and Sorrento & Sons of Portland were to be the contractors.

A loan from the Chancery Office in the amount of \$112,000 was available, plus a loan for 80% of the unpaid pledges. The balance would be paid from parish D Notes, the sale of Anthony House, special donations and other parish savings.

Following the ground breaking ceremony on June 6, 1982, it was learned that before construction could begin, a large area of spongy soil caused from clogged drains on the old ag building had to be removed and the site filled with rock. This "surprise" would cause an added expense of \$10,000. Construction, nonetheless, began in July as scheduled, and throughout the construction period, all was on schedule. Total cost of the building was to be \$514,293, with the activity room and the nursery to be finished later by volunteers of the parish. Father Dennis was impressed with the commitment of the people of the parish.

Prior to the beginning of construction, volunteers of the parish had spent many hours razing the old ag building to make room for the new parish center. The Thrift Shop had been housed there and closed its doors on Saturday, February 27, 1982. Following a clearance sale, remaining goods were donated to St. Vincent De Paul Society and salvageable items were offered for sale to interested parishioners.

The new parish center was completed and ready for occupancy in February 1983. The blessing of the building was held on March 6, 1983, with Auxiliary Bishop Waldschmidt officiating. It was a proud time for the pastor and parishioners. The building was beautiful, but much remained to be done on the exterior as well as finishing the activity and nursery rooms. Paving of the parking lot was the first priority, at a cost of \$12,000. A problem concerning a mutual easement with a neighbor was resolved with the help of parish attorney, Mike Moore. Vince Hermens and his helpers so generously donated time and expertise on the landscaping project. Plants were purchased and planted. Council agreed that a sprinkling system should be installed prior to the completion of the landscaping. Di Rollo Irrigation of Aloha contracted the job.

Even though a number of our parishioners did not pledge or help with the cost of the center, a deficit was offset with the help of newcomers to the parish. Their consistent help with monthly or annual donations made it more possible to meet our quarterly interest and principal payments to the Chancery Office. A good number of those who had paid their pledges in full continued to make monthly or annual payments until the debt was paid in full. All information was always made available to parishioners. During this time the parish grew in number.

To further help with the retirement of the parish debt, the ladies of the parish contributed by holding annual bazaars, craft fairs, rummage sales and annual plant sales. The costume rental shop continued to provide a good source of income. And, the first annual Italian Dinner (which replaced the turkey and ham dinners) was held on Sunday, March 13, 1983, in the new parish center. It was a success and continued in following years to be an even greater event. The meatballs, linguini and sauce were a big hit with the public~ a delicious dinner that was nicely served. A Council decision stated that each year the dinner would be held on the last Sunday in February. Proceeds went towards the retirement of the parish debt.

Father Dennis was inspired by the number of people attending daily Mass and by the participation in the life of the parish. He greatly appreciated the dedication of the members of Parish Council as well as the various ministries. Father met individually and on a weekly basis with staff members. Holy Communion under both species was promoted and additional Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers were commissioned to serve. Girls as Altar servers were introduced. (Natasha Medina-Reyes was the first girl to serve at the Altar). The Folk Group added new leaders and members so that each Mass was provided with music. Mary Ellen and Enrique Medina, talented musicians, joined in the Folk Group leadership, however, they soon moved on to Vancouver, Washington to continue their music ministry at St. Joseph's Church.

Regular Advent and Lenten communal penance services were scheduled in preparation for Christmas and Easter.

In the fall of 1982, the first RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) weekly catechumenate was scheduled, which included candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and Profession of Faith. With the help and good participation of the hosts during the six month instructional period, the result was twelve converts the first year. The number grew in years following. New parishioners were always welcomed and urged to register and become active in the parish.

Coffee and donuts on Sunday mornings became a good way to get acquainted with the parish family. And, the annual volunteer Sunday was another effective way to work together and become acquainted. (Volunteer Sunday was set as a time for parishioners to pledge their talents: SVDP, Education Programs, Youth programs, nursing home visitations, maintenance, transportation, help a family in the parish or community during times of illness, etc.). a special Sunday was designated as the time for parishioners to sign up in the area of help that they preferred. Father Dennis encouraged the people of the parish to work at getting to know each other.

Father enjoyed social gatherings with his parishioners. With a pastor of Irish heritage, the staff felt that it was indeed fitting that on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1982, the adults of the parish should be invited to gather for a first annual Irish celebration honoring all the Irish in the parish as well as our pastor. The first party was held in the old parish gym, and in the years following in the new parish center. The cordial evenings, which were well attended and enjoyed by all, included the wearing of the green, Irish songs, jokes, food and beverages. These celebrations continued for several years while Father Dennis was pastor.

Social needs also continued to be a concern and priority. The parish remained active in the FISH program. Blessing of animals on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi was an event always enjoyed by the pet lovers of the parish and community. The annual June Ecumenical Service held at the Methodist Church was another involvement which Father fully supported.

First Friday noon Mass and soup lunch was introduced soon after Father's arrival in the parish. Beulah Spiering, Emma Eckholt and their helpers never failed to serve a delicious soup luncheon which became a very popular First Friday event for elderly and young alike. And, it continues to be popular.

Pre-Marriage and Pre-Baptismal classes became mandatory in the summer of 1983 in the Archdiocese. Respect Life, Rediscovery, support for Single Parents and Natural Family Planning were available ministries in our parish through the Archdiocese.

Early in 1983 it became evident that the church roof was in poor shape. The bad areas could be repaired and perhaps get by for a year or so. It seemed at that time that the parish could not handle financially the expense of a new roof. Then, in 1984, following three estimates received, Council made the decision to go ahead and re-roof with new spec tile at a cost of \$12,500. Lifetime Roofing Company of Portland was the low bidder. And, the old boiler needed a complete re-tube job by Tom Stevens Boiler Repair of Portland. Council was aware that in the future a new heating system was inevitable. The old boiler was expensive to maintain and it was not adequate.

The Forest Grove Fire Marshall asked that we raze the old gym or bring it up to code. Maintenance chairman, Dave Spiering, was asked to look into the possibilities of demolishing the old building. Byron Flint of Aloha contracted to raze the building for the salvageable lumber. The parish agreed to pay \$600 to Mr. Flint for the cost of disposing the non-salvageable debris. The demolition was completed in May, 1984.

Later in 1983, Parish Council was informed that the Elm Street Improvement project would probably happen during the 1984-85 fiscal year. The estimated cost was \$23,000. Council and Father were overwhelmed with the big parish expenses at this time. However, it was somewhat comforting to learn that Bancroft financing through the City of Forest Grove would be available for the street improvement project and payments would probably not begin until sometime in 1986.

In the summer of 1983 Father Sohler suffered a serious heart attack and was hospitalized for several days. He returned to fair health and continued to serve in the parish on a limited basis.

During the summer of 1983, seminarian Don Gutmann from the Archdiocese worked in the parish on a part-time basis gathering experience in parish life and operation. Don was well liked by the people and would later return to the parish to serve as youth minister before continuing his studies to become a priest.

In 1983 Council approved Father's request that the 7:00PM Saturday evening Mass be changed to 5:30 PM.

When Julia Heesacker, a long time parishioner passed away in 1983, her children donated funds to build a shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be placed in the courtyard between the church and parish center. In the summer of 1985, it was completed. The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was donated by Julia's sister, Agnes Heesacker. The shrine was dedicated on August 15, 1985 ~ Our Lady of Grace in memory of Bert and Julia Heesacker, a beautiful memorial of two devoted people.

The parish office continued to publish a quarterly news letter which was mailed to each parish family. A monthly activity calendar was attached to the bulletin. The people were always aware of monthly parish activities.



Soon after the completion of the parish center, Father Dennis met with the ladies of the Altar Society regarding new rules, regulations and rental prices for the use of the parish center for weddings, special dinners, anniversaries, etc.. New guidelines were drawn up and approved by Council. Basically, the new parish center was reserved for parish functions and for the use of parishioners. The ladies of the parish formed a committee under the leadership of Willa Hendricks to serve dinners for families following a funeral in the parish, a greatly appreciated outreach. A separate committee formed under the leadership of Bea Holzmeyer, Fran Fournal and Sharon Nosack to cater parish wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations and other parties ~ always nicely served.

The first parish directory was published by Olan Mills Photography in the fall of 1983. Fifty percent of the parish participated, and those who did found it very helpful in getting acquainted with the members of our growing parish family.

In the fall of 1983, under the guidance of the Archdiocese, Vicariates were formed and meetings scheduled as an opportunity for parishes to share and learn from one another. The meetings included clergy and lay people. Our Vicariate includes Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Verboort, Roy, North Plains, Gaston, Cornelius and Yamhill. Father Robert Cieslinski of Hillsboro was named the Vicar. Meetings were held alternately at each parish participating. It was a great opportunity for the parishes, however, attendance was poor, interest lagged and eventually meetings were cancelled. St. Anthony's parish had been well represented. Frank Buckiewicz served as the parish delegate and always urged Council and all parishioners to participate.

The Religious Education Program was under sound direction during the time that Katy Andrews served as coordinator of the program. Katy worked well with teachers and provided good teacher training programs. Her program included grades K-8 and during this time there was a record high attendance. The annual Archdiocesan Key People conference was well attended by St. Anthony's. In December 1983, Katy Andrews resigned when the Andrews family moved to Moscow, Idaho. Judy Hendricks was hired on an interim basis until July 1, 1984. At that time the position would be open also to other candidates. Judy was serving as chairperson of the Education Commission and was well qualified for the job as Religious Education Coordinator. During this time enrollment continued to increase. The annual book fair and the children's Christmas Mass was introduced. A one week summer school staffed by the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon was well attended.

Mike Benton continued as Youth and Campus Minister. Parish volunteers assisted Mike in carrying out the various projects; annual CYO convention, retreats, paper drives, bike-a-thon, group help on Burnside, UNICEF, sharing activities with other youth groups, delivering Christmas baskets and regular weekly gatherings and classes were some of the many activities. Mike was always eager to keep updated by attending seminars and workshops provided for the Archdiocesan Youth Ministers. He met regularly with Father regarding priorities and goals for the youth program.

Mike also worked at forming a good University Campus Ministry at Pacific University and the parish staff was not too surprised when Mike announced that he had become engaged and would marry Beth Rasgorshek, a Pacific University student and that he would resign as Youth Minister effective July 1, 1985. (In June 1984, a \$3,071 first grant was received from the archdiocesan Stewardship program for the Newman Apostolate.)

Perhaps one of Father Dennis's most difficult times at St. Anthony's was in December 1983. At the Parish Council meeting, Father shared with Council members that he was concerned over the Adult Education Program. Father pointed out that Sister Mary Trainor was extremely dedicated to her work and had done much for the parish. She was deeply committed to the Charismatic Renewal and while this had been an avenue of spiritual renewal for some, he felt that the needs of many parishioners were not being served. Father felt that Sister Mary's contract should not be renewed for the 1984-85 fiscal year. Following lengthy Council discussions, an evaluation which included staff members and Education Commission members was requested along with recommendations, with the final decision in Father Dennis's hands.

Sister Mary Trainor announced at the February Council meeting that she felt it was time to move on. She had been in the parish for seven years. She would continue to work within the Charismatic Renewal. It was agreed by Council that St. Anthony's would give Sister Mary a positive recommendation. Parish Council went on record in making the following statement:

“That Sister Mary Trainor is inwardly and outwardly devoted to our Lord and dedicated to His work. It is with the blessings of the Parish Council that we see her off to a new ministry.”

St. Anthony's Prayer Community continued its weekly Tuesday evening prayer meetings under the direction of the Pastoral Team. Regular semi-annual retreats and special celebrations continued and the community continued to contribute in prayerful ways and in outstanding parish involvement.

Following Sister Mary's resignation, Sister Florence Peterson, SNJM, was hired as Pastoral Associate beginning in September, 1984. Father Dennis shared with Council that he preferred to fill the vacancy as a Pastoral Associate instead of an Adult Education Coordinator. Sister Florence soon involved talented parishioners in the Adult Faith Ministry. Scripture studies were held weekly and visitations to nursing homes, hospitals and homes were promoted. Sister Florence initiated the St. Anthony's Saint Vincent de Paul ministry under the guidance of Tim Hornbeck from the Chancery. Social concern organizational meetings were held and within a few months the leadership was successfully transferred into the hands of a team: Nan Cop, Leader and June Smejki and Rosie Gerding, helpers. The SVDP became an umbrella organization for those in need. Over thirty of our fellow parishioners were a part of the SVDP from the start and more became involved as the agency grew. Involvement included delivering food, making up food boxes, keeping the food cupboard in good order, answering the phones and keeping office records. It became an outreach to hundreds in our community; the parish also remained active in the FISH program.

The Women's Support group, Mother's Morning Off Co-op, Women's Exercises and Breakfast Club were among Sister's ministries. Sister Florence felt strongly that we were no longer a Church where everything is done for the people, but, that the people must feel responsible and capable to carry out many ministries.

As a result of the new Code of Canon Law, it was at this point in parish history that we experienced the demise of Parish Council ~ to be replaced by Pastoral Council. From 1971-1984 the elected people of the parish had served in the decision-making Council. Now a

cross section of members-at-large would be elected to serve as the planning body of the parish.

The following people have served the parish as Parish Council presidents during the past thirteen years: Lloyd Duyck, Joe Zimmerman, Ray Giansante, Frank Buckiewicz, Frank Lebold, Don Winkler and Ken Gratteri. Our gratitude for a job well done was extended to each of the presidents, the elected commission members and the members-at-large. Their dedication and perseverance had been outstanding.

The new Pastoral Council would include two councils the Administrative (Finance) and the Pastoral Council (planning body) and would consist of a cross section of seven members-at-large to be elected by ballot by the members of the parish. Two would be elected for a one year term, two for a two year term and three for a three year term. A Pastoral Council constitution was written and approved. Instead of the parliamentary order of rules, the Archdiocese asked that a consensus prevail ~ listen to one another and to God.

A Mission Statement was written which reminds us that we are called together from all aspects of life ~ the young, the old, the very old, the divorced, the widowed and, in prayerful reflection strive to meet the needs of all people. Love must be the focal point, and we must respect everyone's position and work for unity. We as a Council are to consider where we are and where we are going, and what we are called to be. We are to state the goals of our efforts in the various ministries.

Pastoral Council would see itself as a group of parishioners whose task it is to keep an overall perspective of the whole parish and to assist St. Anthony's community to live out its Mission Statement. The Mission Statement was approved by council and done in calligraphy by a talented parishioner, Mary Eagle. It was posted at the entrance of the Church and at the entrance of the parish center. A copy was made available to each parishioner.

The first Pastoral Council meeting was held in August 1984. A nominating committee was appointed for the election of seven members-at-large. The elections were to be held on the weekend of September 29-30. Voting was to be by ballot. Monthly meetings were scheduled to be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Father Dennis appointed Jerry Wieber, Ken Gratteri, Dick Hendricks and Vera DeWolf to serve on the Administrative Council, with regular meetings to be held on the second Tuesday of each month. A copy of the monthly financial statement and the minutes of the Administrative Council meetings would be made available to Pastoral Council.

Father Dennis asked Pastoral Council to pray that we may become re-dedicated to the Lord as He works in our midst. "A deeply spiritual mission is ahead for each of us," he said.

In September 1984, the nominating committee presented its list of interested persons to serve as members-at-large on Pastoral Council. Elections were held, and the following were elected to serve as the first members-at-large: Paula Ashenberner, Lily Ann Hamerl, Jean Baldwin, Frank Buckiewicz, Morrie DeWolf, Ed Stadelman and John Krebsbach. At the October meeting, the newly elected members were welcomed and reminded that they are the pastoral planning body of the church. Father explained to the new Council the change over from Parish Council to Pastoral Council and the separate functions of Pastoral and Administrative Council. The Pastor, Youth Minister, Administrative Assistant, Pastoral Associate and

Religious Education Coordinator would serve as ex-officio members. Father said, “listen to the Lord and to one another.”

Special prayers at Mass and periods of prayer and fasting were suggestions offered. A thirty–three hour perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was held early in November with the goal being “A Spiritual Renewal.” Also, following the first Friday noon Masses, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament would follow until nine PM. (Later it was scheduled to be an all night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.) Each Friday was to be a special day of prayer and fasting. An opportunity for a spiritual renewal was fostered by a parish mission during the first week of Advent and was conducted by a Dominican priest, Father Banfield.

Father Dennis scheduled to attend a parish renewal program in Los Angeles in January 1985, to be given by Father Chuck Gallagher. It was a renewal for priests with following renewals to be carried out for the people of the parish. Father received much prayerful support. His life was touched by the renewal. He shared with Council that he felt revived as a Christian, a Catholic and a Priest.

Following his return from Los Angeles, preparations were made for scheduled parish renewals. The entire parish was urged to participate especially Council members and those involved in ministries and leadership roles. Four separate renewals were held with Father as the leader, which included: prayer, scripture, meditations, homilies, sharing in small groups and reconciliation ceremony of priest and people and people and community. It provided a conversion experience that strengthened existing ministries. One hundred sixty people attended the weekend renewals. Those not attending the renewal provided the meals and helped care for families of those attending. In a spiritual sense, the people of the parish were drawn closer together; it was a unifying time in the parish. (A number of follow-up mini-renewals were held following the weekend renewals and were structured to be a continuing conversion and strengthening experience.)

Back early in 1960, then parishioner Jean Warren had donated a grand piano to the parish. It was housed in the parish gym and was put to good use during the time that the school was in session as well s for other parish gatherings. When the new parish center was completed, the piano was stored in the unfinished nursery room, so that the demolition of the gym building could proceed. Following inquiries, it was determined that it would be very costly to refurbish the piano. Finance Council agreed to accept the offer from Mr. D. Milburn of Sweet Home, Oregon, that he deliver a Gulbranson 47” upright piano with a five year unconditional guarantee plus \$300 in exchange for the grand piano. The piano was delivered in November 1984.

In December 1984, volunteers from the parish began finishing the activity room and the nursery. Funds had been donated by a parishioner to take care of all materials needed in finishing the project. The work was completed early in 1985. Cupboards for the activity room were built by Harold’s Cabinet’s of Forest Grove. LeRoy’s Window Décor of Portland furnished the blinds at a reduced price.

In January 1985, the remaining parish debt was \$144,370 on the new parish center. Finance Council requested a complete report to include the outstanding loan to the Chancery, amount of outstanding pledges, and amount determined to be uncollectible. Pledge payments had

dropped substantially. Council was concerned that only 40% of the parish was offering financial support. Another follow-up drive was considered to include those who had not pledged the first time. Following discussions and various considerations, Council agreed to “The Good Program, Let’s Get Out Of Debt.” An interest free loan project where parishioners would agree to offer a loan (interest free) in the amount of \$1000 or more to be used in repayment of the debt to the Chancery. The parish would save thousands in interest. \$150,000 was needed to pay of the parish debt and the Elm Street improvement project. As pledge payments would come in, drawings would be held periodically for repayment to the loaner. But, there were too few loans to be successful. Father shared with Finance Council that we would not spend beyond our income. Following a letter and tithing brochures, sent to each household, and a “push” from the pulpit and Sunday bulletin, it was noted that collections were improving. Council had considered a tithing program.

Finance Council agreed that the parish donate \$250 toward the anti-abortion mailing program, which included other churches in the area. Parishioners were encouraged to participate in a peaceful rally in front of an abortion clinic in Forest Grove. (the date of the rally was on the anniversary date that the Supreme Court passed the ruling to legalize abortions in the United States.) And, following the Friday morning Masses, a number of people gathered weekly in front of the abortion clinic to pray the holy Rosary, led by Father Dennis. A number of our parishioners became involved in the abortion issue and, actively but peacefully, demonstrated their opposition.

In January 1985, parishes in the Archdiocese were notified of an upcoming Archdiocesan Pastoral Convention to be held in the fall of that year. The primary purpose of the convention was to study and investigate issues and concerns which pertained to the pastoral activities and mission of the church, and to provide the Archbishop and the Archdiocese with a clearer understanding of the consensus of the faithful. Our Pastoral Council would prepare to submit its growth, reach out to the unchurched and the people who have left the church, needs of the poor (abortions, oppressed, shut-ins), concerns for the single persons in the church, support roles for the families in the parish, and training in ministries. Frank Buckiewicz was selected to attend the convention as a parish delegate and Ed Gerding would attend as parish-at-large member. All interested parishioners were welcome to attend. Following the convention, the delegates reported to Council that 185 delegates had attended (8 from our Vicariate). Excellent talks by Bishop Kenneth Utener and chances to discuss, propose and pass resolutions were on the agenda for the first annual convention. The delegates were inspired.

At the January Pastoral Council meeting, the pastor shared with the members present that his hopes and goals in 1985 are that there will be a greater building up of the body of Christ among families. The Mothers’ Co-op, Saint Vincent De Paul, FISH and Sunday morning nursery were already showing progress. “These things are the heart and soul of what the parish is all about,” he said.

Members for the Liturgical Ministry were addressed and Pastoral Council was reminded that Liturgy is the celebration of the action of prayer – celebrating and recognizing the presence of God. Father Dennis, convened the people for this committee and with its help would establish priorities: Music, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Education in Liturgy for adults and children, Sacramental Ministry to the ill and shut-ins, Greeters, Ushers, Servers, Art and Architecture and Liturgy planning are all included in the ministry. Under Father’s guidance,

the committee would train and re-train our people for the various ministries and work for the liturgical education of our parishioners. Father Dennis prayed with Liturgy Ministers prior to Mass.

In 1985, Frank Buckiewicz and Morrie DeWolf headed a "Parish Work-Bee" to include painting the school interior and installation of new window blinds, (purchased from LeRoy's Window Décor of Portland), maintenance of parish grounds, and painting the exterior of the parish center.

The A-I Janitorial Service was hired to provide all janitorial services for the parish center in March, 1985. Janitorial services had not been adequate until then.

Mike Benton left the parish on June 30, 1985. He was married to Beth Rasgorschek in July 1985, at St. Anthony's Church. When Mike left, he asked for prayers and more parish involvement in the youth program. Leadership youth had been invited to Pastoral Council meetings for their input in the youth program. Mike had helped them build a sound program and they were eager to continue.

Don Gutmann, a young seminarian was well known in the parish and would become the next Youth Minister to lead the youth of St. Anthony's parish and the Campus Ministry of Pacific University. Don was hired on a half time basis. He had helped out in the parish during a previous summer. At this time, Don took a leave of absence from his studies in the seminary until 1989 when he returned to Mt. Angel to continue his studies to become a priest in the Archdiocese. Don served the youth of the parish well. The young people of the parish had again been blessed with a dedicated leader.

The Pacific University Campus Ministry included weekly communion services and regular weekly gatherings. The college students often helped Don with high school retreats and other activities. During the time that Don was at St. Anthony's, a young adult group was formed and often shared activities with a young adult group from St. Matthew's in Hillsboro. The group included college age singles.

In June 1985, Jan Beachler was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Dick Hendricks, in the Administrative Council (Finance). Dick passed away unexpectedly in May, 1985.

In the summer of 1985 Father Dennis was appointed by Archbishop Levada to a one year term as chairman of the Archdiocesan Presbyterial Council in the Chancery. Father stated that it would mean extra responsibilities to the Archdiocese. Father had previously been serving on the executive board of the Priests' Council and also on the Archbishop's Board of Consulters.

In August, Judy Hendricks, Religious Education Coordinator, resigned due to family considerations. Judy had worked hard – a job well done. Stephanie Mann had so ably assisted Judy and was well qualified for the job. She took the position effective August 15, 1985. Stephanie served the people tirelessly and continued a sound religious program in the parish. She felt strongly that it is a parental duty to see that the children practice their faith to the fullest. Her concern that there were a number of children attending religion classes, but didn't attend Mass, was addressed by the Council.

Pastoral Council meetings were cancelled during the months of July and August. Council members were reminded that the summer months were a good time to reflect and discuss with family and parishioners on ways and means of helping our parish renew take firm root. At this point we had a wonderful start. Now our real work would begin. The fruits of the parish renewals were obvious. Council looked forward to scheduling additional renewals.

“Evangelization” was to be the theme for the parish during the month of December 1985. What should it mean to each of us as members of Pastoral Council and how can we be better examples to others?” The Paulist Center’s “Come Home for Christmas” was recommended. Parishioners were asked to pick up cards in the entrance to the church and list names and addresses of those to be remembered during this special Christmas Season. Pastoral Council members made special efforts during the month of December to welcome, talk to, listen to, and reach out especially to newcomers and fallen away Catholics. Our help, kindness, concern and patience would be effective ways of evangelizing. It was in December 1985, that the “greeting” before Mass was implemented. And, we were reminded that we must be evangelized before we can evangelize. Pastoral Council responded in an exemplary way. During that time, Pope John Paul II’s letter to the church stated that in order to be adequate evangelizers, the gospel of Jesus Christ must live first in our hearts, concentrate on self, and the teach and share with others.

January 26, 1986, was a designated day for Rene Wyffels. On that day, Rene was honored for his many years of faithful service to St. Anthony’s parish. The men of the parish cooked and served a pancake breakfast and proceeds from the breakfast were used to buy Rene an appreciation gift – a plaque with his name engraved and mounted on the new gas range in the parish kitchen. Rene’s wife, Gladys, was included in the special day. Rene and Gladys Wyffels had served their parish with love and integrity for many years.

The year 1986 was a very special year for St. Anthony’s parish of Forest Grove. It was the year of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a parish. The celebration included a series of activities during the year. Members of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council served as chairmen of the dinner, ticket sales, liturgy, invitations and all festivities. A special Mass was offered on Sunday, September 21, 1986, with Auxiliary Bishop Waldschmidt the main celebrant. Former pastors, associate pastors, sisters and staff members received special invitations. Three hundred tickets were sold on a first come first served basis for the dinner. Then parishioner, Fran Scott, catered the dinner. The parish children’s choir, under the direction of Mary Ellen Madina, the Folk Group under the direction of John Krebsbach and Steve Dierickx, The Traditional Choir, under the direction of Ardith Normandin contributed to the liturgy of the Mass. Many hours of rehearsal were held prior to the special day. Three of our former Sisters who staffed our school during 1963-71 attended the anniversary celebration: Sister Noreen Francis, Sister Eileen Mary and Sister Claire Marie, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondolet of Los Angeles. A special parish directory was printed by Olan Mills. All parishioners had the opportunity to have their pictures taken to be posted in the directory at no cost. John and Margaret Forsyth served as parish historians, a job well done. Pictures were displayed and stories and information was shared with the people of the parish. The history was combined with the Olan Mills directory.

The Women’s Support Group consisted of a group of enthusiastic ladies of the parish. The ladies proposed to be responsible for the Sunday coffee and rolls and other hospitality gatherings. In November 1986, a special celebration was held at which all married couples

in the parish were honored. The evening's festivities included a special Mass and renewal of marriage vows followed by a social hour and dance to live music. It was an excellent marriage support function and well attended by couples of all ages. The Women's Support Group were commended.

Father Dennis asked Pastoral Council to focus on weddings and support of marriages following the wedding day. Father expressed his pastoral concern regarding the marriage preparation programs. How can we help prepare for a wedding as a community?

In 1986, "The Learning Workshop," a private school, owned and operated by Linda and John Lewis, leased two rooms in the school building for the 1986-87 school year, and "The Free Orchards" pre-school leased one room for the school year. Both leases included an understanding that parish children could use the classrooms on Sundays for their religion classes. (The lease continues in 1990.)

In April 1986, five members from Visitation School in Verboort attended our Finance Council meeting. They were soliciting help in keeping their school going, and asked for financial and recruitment help. At that time, a number of children from our parish attended Visitation School. Council agreed to discuss and explore the matter. St. Anthony's parish was facing other financial obligations but, Council felt it was a good opportunity to help Catholic education. In 1988, Council voted to pay \$2,000 in aid to Visitation school for the 1988-89 school year. In 1989 the Archdiocesan "stable school plan" asked parishes to pay up to \$600 per parish pupil to help the school in the 1989-90 school year. Finance Council agreed to give financial aid as per Archdiocesan policy in the amount of \$5,750, to help with tuition cost for children from our parish, for the 1989-90 school year. At the same time St. Alexander's parish of Cornelius needed help in purchasing a school bus for transporting its Spanish parishioners to Mass. Finance Council agreed to pay \$500 towards that project

In April 1986, Father Dennis announced to Finance Council that Sister Florence Peterson's contract as Pastoral Associate would not be renewed. It was necessary to cut expenses. There were no plans to replace Sister Florence. It was felt that with the help of parishioners there were several ideas to be explored. Sister would be missed by many. The Saint Vincent De Paul which she had successfully helped to establish would live on and continue to serve the needy in the community.

In May 1986, representatives from the CHI RHO House on Elm Street in Forest Grove spoke to Pastoral Council regarding support and help in operating the shelter home for women and children. The home was operated by Christian Life Ministries. It was agreed that members visit the home and get acquainted with the program. Bedding and household items were needed. Parishioners were encouraged to help in any way possible. The Quiet Home in Hillsboro, a home for unwed mothers and Forest Grove Youth Services, were other generous outreaches.

In the summer of 1986, Finance Council contracted with Terry Harris of Forest Grove to paint the church interior. Brauckman Homes, Inc. contracted to re-side the entire building and, since funds were too low to re-side the entire building, it was agreed to do the south side and hold the remainder for six months as funds became available. In the fall of 1986, Finance Council, under Father Dennis's guidance, prioritized the various maintenance projects which needed to be done: the final re-siding of the school building, repainting all



trim on the church and parish center, black topping, purchase of a new church organ, and updating the heating system were among the priorities listed.

Stephanie Mann resigned as religious education coordinator in June, 1986. The family moved to the Midwest. Stephanie would be missed. Mary Eagle had been working in the program with Stephanie and was hired to continue the program in the parish. She was hired on a half-time basis, effective August 1, 1986.

On July 3, 1986, Archbishop Cornelius Power, having received the approval of Pope John Paul II, announced his retirement plans. On September 26, 1984 the installation Mass for Portland's eighth Archbishop, William J. Levada, was held.

In 1986 the Archdiocesan Presbyterial Council and Stewardship Committee agreed that parish Stewardship goals would replace parish assessments effective in 1987. No assessments for parishes that meet their goal, and any excess over the goal, would be returned to the parish. Parishes not meeting their goal would be required to make up the difference from their regular budget. In previous years, the parish had consistently met its stewardship goal. In the years following refunds were received, the first one in 1987.

When Father Sohler passed away in August 1986, St. Anthony's parish was informed that it had been included in his Will in the amount of \$30,000. Father Dennis suggested to Finance Council that a new organ be purchased from the money. Our parish organ was in poor shape and was costly to keep in repair. Council agreed. A new organ was purchased from Rodger's Organ Co., Hillsboro, Oregon, including speakers, key boards and installation. The purchase amounted to \$17,755.

In 1986, Pastoral Council agreed to Father Dennis's suggestion that the constitution be amended to read that the election of members-at-large be by lot and not ballot. The first election by lot was held in September 1986. The people of the parish voted in favor of the change.

In the fall of 1986, the Vicariate agreed to implement the DeSales Program, which had been very successful in the Baker diocese. The Archdiocese shared the cost with the vicariate in implementing the program. It was hoped that there would be a renewal and provide a faith sharing on the vicariate level. Pastoral Council was enthused with the De Sales program and urged parishioners to attend a special meeting. The program was introduced in four areas of study: Baptism, Gospels, Eucharist and St. Paul. A series of eight sessions was included in each area of study. It was an opportunity for adults of the parish to grow into a better understanding of the Catholic faith. Participants could develop their spiritual lives and, through faith sharing, develop a stronger commitment to the Christian community. Home groups of 8-12 were highly recommended and participation in our parish was very good – a number of home groups and parish center meeting groups were formed.

At the close of 1986, as Pastoral Council looked back, it acknowledged that it had been blessed with a diverse people. The task of all Pastoral Council members continued to prayerfully discern where the Lord is leading us. During the past year, Council had focused on: Pastoral Council and parish participation, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Anthony's as a parish, the De Sales program, religious vocations, parish responsibilities in preparation of marriage and support of marriage and additional parish renewals.

Council concurred that as more parishioners have the opportunity to be involved in a parish renewal weekend, a greater interest in parish involvement and outreach would present itself.

The year 1987 was an eventful time in our parish. In January we celebrated church unity week as a special occasion and, on a Sunday following the 9:00 am Mass, parishioners of St. Bede's Episcopal Church were invited to come to the parish center for a time of prayer and fellowship. It was well attended by both churches.

In February 1987, the blessing and dedication of the new church organ was held. Jonas Nordwall, noted church organist, presented a recital, which was enjoyed by all attending. A social hour followed in the parish center. The gathering included members of other churches in Forest Grove. The organ was purchased from funds received in the Will of Father Louis Sohler. Members of his family were special guests at the dedication.

Mike Sheridan and Dick Brewersdorff were appointed to the Administrative (Finance) Council.

In May 1987, Finance Council voted to pick up Father Dennis's monthly auto payments. (Later the balance was paid in full prior to his transfer to St. Cecilia's in Beaverton.) Father greatly appreciated this generosity.

During this time, a sizeable amount was spent on parish maintenance projects including, re-sealing and re-stripping the parking lots, removing moss and repairing roof tiles on the rectory, and painting the trim on the exterior of the school building and rectory. In February, Council agreed to pay the Elm Street Improvement cost in full in the amount of \$17,320.26 from parish savings, which include the balance of Father Sohler's Will.

Other parish maintenance included repainting the rectory interior and refinishing all cupboards as per contract with Eric Ames of Hillsboro. LeRoy's Window Décor of Portland furnished blinds for the rectory. New Furnishings for the Pastor's quarters were purchased.

Effective July 1987, the mailing of the Catholic Sentinel to the homes of all parishioners were discontinued. Parishioners were encouraged to continue their subscriptions. The parish needed to cut expenses.

Youth Minister, Don Gutmann, shared his concern that the Campus Ministry program would benefit by greater attention from parishioners. As a means of help, he encouraged families in the parish to adopt a student for the school year, and make them feel welcome to visit and share a meal in a home-like atmosphere. The concern was addressed. Meanwhile, Don's high school program was well attended and retreats were regularly scheduled for the youth of the parish, and often with the help of Pacific University students. A CORE group was formed within the Youth Group which helped their youth minister with the planning and leadership needed for the program. Candidates were prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation under Don's leadership. In the summer of 1987, Don's youth group participated in the "Portland Plunge," a one week adventure for high schoolers serving Jesus with love and energy through His homeless people in Portland.

Don had a way of drawing the kids together – “Ya it’s gunna be AWESOME.” Paper drives and car washes were some of the activities to raise funds for the retreats. The New Year’s Eve Lock-In, was and still is, a popular and well chaperoned event for the youth of the parish. An all night party with plenty of food, drink, games, videos, television, music and dancing continues to be enjoyed by all who attend, and is a “fun” way for the young people to usher in the New Year.

In September 1987, Portland was one of the four cities in the United States to hold a live teleconference with the Pope. Sandi Schmitt of our parish was selected from forty candidates to present the gift of service to the Pope. It was a great honor for Sandi and our parish.

The DeSales Program progressed as a popular means of adult education. It was suggested that the parish buy the entire program so that parishioners could have better access to the videos. (At this time, four new areas of study had been added). Council agreed. Father saw the De Sales program as an opportunity for faith, education and spirituality among lay people. To further promote Adult Education in the parish, Don Gutmann held a Thursday morning Bible Study which was also well attended.

Pastoral Council focused on “Our Call to Evangelization” during the year 1987 and was reminded that we are here to help build the Kingdom of God. We are family. Pastoral Council would continue to make itself visible to the people of the parish. It was noted that De Sales, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), and parish renewals are all very effective ways of evangelizing.

In June, the parish participated in “Pentecost ‘87” which was under the direction of the Paulist Fathers – a one day long national satellite video conference. It was estimated that 60,000 Catholics in the United States participated in the celebration. McMinnville was the closest receiving site for St. Anthony’s and was attended by parish representatives –John Krebsbach, Don Gutmann and Lucille Kempen. The goal of the video conference was to evangelize the 15 million inactive Catholics, 75 million unchurched and 52 million active Catholics in the United States. And, to unite all Catholics in the common effort and to inspire all Christians in the common good.

“How to make the Offertory of the Mass more meaningful” was addressed. Father pointed out for clarification that this part of the Mass, is liturgically known as the preparation of the gifts which starts after the Creed and ends with the Eucharistic prayers. Giving money at this time is symbolic of giving of ourselves to God in return for His many blessings. The children of the parish were provided with collection envelopes and different families were assigned to bring the gifts to the Altar during Mass, as two ways to help make the Offertory more meaningful.

Music in the Liturgy of the Mass was important to Father Dennis. During this time Father expressed his hope that a member of the choir would come forward to serve as a cantor for the 11:00 am Mass. Two octaves of hand bells had been donated to the parish by Frank Lebold, and Frank volunteered his leadership in organizing a hand bell choir. A children’s choir under the direction of Mary Ellen Medina and, later Rosalie Wandell, added to the special times in the parish.

Camille Miller came forward and volunteered to cantor for the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass. Her generous outreach has made the Mass more beautiful and prayerful and, was greatly appreciated by the pastor and people. The Folk Group added new leadership members. Father Dennis appointed Scott Eagle as Director of Music in the parish.

Prior to Pope John Paul II coming to the United States in September 1987, special prayer cards and prayer intentions were distributed as a reminder to the people of the parish and Archdiocese. Prayers for the success and safety of his trip were offered for the Holy Father, and for the spiritual aims of his visit to our country. Pope John Paul II had given his reasons for making pilgrimage. He wanted them to be occasions for deepening an awareness of Christ, for increasing a living, conscious and active faith, and for helping the people of God become a servant Church for the whole world.

An improved sound system was purchased for the church – HIS Sound at a cost of \$4,304.84. Also two overhead fans were installed. The earlier sound system in the church had not been adequate. The new system with a centrally mounted speaker suspended from the ceiling provides even, clear distribution. The new system was installed in June 1987.

Willa Hendricks purchased furnishings for the new parish center, including tables and chairs for the dining room and the activity room, a conference table and chairs for the conference room, and in the early summer of 1989 she purchased all furnishings for the fireside room. Father Dennis on behalf of the people of the parish, gratefully acknowledged Willa's generosity.

In May 1987, Catholic Printery of Seattle placed a computer in the parish office with an agreement that a full advertiser grid be maintained on the backside of the weekly bulletin. The parish would pay \$8.00 monthly for each vacancy – maximum of \$156. Catholic Printery printed the parish weekly bulletin at no cost to the parish in exchange for the advertisers. It was not successful. The company seemed unable to properly set up the computer programs and to serve the parish as agreed. The contract was cancelled and Liturgical Press of St. Louis, Missouri, was contracted to print the weekly bulletin beginning December 31, 1989 and Noll Printing of Huntington, Indiana would supply the envelopes effective January 1990 on a quarterly basis. The computer, however, remained and as updated programs were installed it revolutionized the accounting, parish census, and weekly bulletin and collection systems in the parish office.

Father Dennis was pleased with Mary Eagle's religious education program. Home Masses were implemented for the various classes and were well attended by students and parents. There was emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and special teachers' orientation programs were implemented. St. Anthony's Angels proved to be a good source of support for the teachers. Liturgy of the Word for pre-school children was started. Mary's artistic talents provided special Advent and Lenten projects. "Giving Advent" was a popular project which included one Sunday in Advent as "Toy Sunday" where each child in the program was asked to bring a toy to share with a needy child; "Nickel and Dime Sunday" donations from the children were used for the benefit of the Parish St. Vincent De Paul Program and one Sunday was designated as "Canned Food Sunday," when the children brought a canned food item for the needy in the community. Mini-retreats were held for the children and parents of the First Communion Classes. Catechetical Sunday was celebrated in September prior to the opening of the religious education school year. Enrollment increased. Mary's musical talent

was generously shared in her religious education program as well as for regular Sunday Masses.

St. Anthony's Church has always been beautifully and artistically decorated for Easter and Christmas Masses as well as for other special liturgies. During these years, Joan Herb and family members, and Beulah Spiering and family members, and Emma Eckholt have donated their time and talents on these important projects. The parish is grateful.

Remembering our deceased loved ones at Christmas time with a poinsettia, and at Easter with an Easter lily was implemented by Father Dennis during his pastorate at St. Anthony's. Parishioners were invited to make an offering of \$5.00 and present the names of loved ones to be remembered during the special season—a good way to remember our deceased family members in the special Masses of Christmas and Easter.

During the 1987 Advent Season parishioners were asked to list names of loved ones whom they wish to have back in the church and, as a parish, prayers for their return were offered. The names were placed in a basket at the foot of the Altar and remained there during the Advent Season.

“FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK” ...The parish weekly bulletin contained a first in line column where Father would greet his parishioners with a special observation or comment for the week. (On July 12, 1987 the following was noted “From the Pastor's Desk” and described him well) “There are times when a pastor worries... when the negative things seem so apparent. The crowds of people that seem to care so little about the Eucharist – always late or leaving early and so often it seems, without prayer or participation. But then you see the family that comes back after Mass to pray—little kids and all. And you see the parishioner that makes it a point to sit with and take an interest in someone else who is having problems and the family who goes out of its way to give another parishioner a ride home and the couple who gives up its Sunday morning to take Holy Communion to shut-ins. And the more you get to thinking about it the list grows longer. You can think of virtually hundreds of incidents and situations just for last Sunday of people giving of themselves to the Lord and to others – and these are just the situations the pastor knows about – and then the pastor gets to feeling good after all – that the Eucharist is really living in so many people's hearts.”

Parishioners looked forward to the pastor's weekly greeting. (Father Dennis emphasized strongly and often the importance of not leaving Mass early.)

July 1, 1987 – July 1, 1988 was announced by the Holy Father as the Marian Year in order to help the universal church prepare for the coming of the Third Millennium of Christianity in the year 2000. Special Masses and celebrations were held in the Archdiocese during the year. The special year drew to a close on the Feast of the Assumption, August 16, 1988, with an Archdiocesan-wide celebration on the campus of the University of Portland. The entire Archdiocese was invited to join in the solemn Eucharist in honor of our Lady's Assumption. The solemn celebration included priests, religious and lay people and provided a unique opportunity for all present to renew their dedication to Mary, the patroness of our Archdiocese, under the title of her Immaculate Conception.

Since the early 1970s, Nora Meeuwsen has served the patients in the Forest View Nursing Home with weekly visits. And, on a monthly basis she entertains the residents with games of bingo and celebrating the birthdays of the month. Nora continues her loving outreach which includes taking Holy Communion weekly to the Catholic residents. Other nursing homes, foster homes and retirement center residents, who were unable to attend Mass, received weekly Holy Communion from Eucharistic Ministers, Agnes Heesacker, Pat Woods and Lucille Kempen and often enjoyed special visits from Father, during Father Dennis's pastorate.

In June of 1988, our choir director, Ardith Normandin retired. She had served the parish with great devotion for 37 years. The joy and talent and energy with which Ardith had directed our choir over these years had helped make our worship much more prayerful and beautiful. Ardith began her membership in St. Anthony's in 1952, in the early church located on 17<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street. At that time, she was a newlywed and as she participated at Mass, she noted that the choir could use some help. A Marylhurst music and education major, Ardith offered her assistance as director of the choir, volunteering her help for the next 37 years. And, during the time that the parish school was in operation, Ardith also volunteered her help in directing the school music program. A very fine children's choir as well as other musical presentations is remembered by many.

A special day – Sunday, June 5 – was designated as a time to offer our gratitude to Ardith for her many years of service. A salad luncheon followed the special 11:00 A.M. Mass. Thirty minutes prior to Mass time, the choir sang their favorite hymns. The entire parish was invited. A Waterford crystal bowl was a gift from the parish. Ardith would be missed, however, she would remain in the choir and hand bell choir under the direction of a new leader.

A number of our faithful choir members have also given many years of their talent and time. In grateful recognition we extend our thanks to: Barbara Chapman, Patricia White Phyllis Landaur, Kathy Van Dyke, LaRue Dere, Tony Mangold, Jerry Wieber Frank Buckiewicz, Bill Howarth, Ben Lemire, Minnie Holzmeyer, and (Della Benoit, deceased).

Others who have also contributed their talent for a number of years are: Camille Miller, Janice Matthias, Barbara Delegato, Joyce Vanderzanden, Lois Boogaard, Patricia Lewis and Ken Kemper. We are grateful for their dedication.

The Lord heard our pleas, and brought forward parishioner, Frank Lebold, a talented musician. A music teacher in the Beaverton School District, he had previously directed the choir at St. Rose's Church in Portland. Frank took over as St. Anthony's Choir director in time to prepare for the Christmas Masses, which included the hand bell choir and the traditional choir. Frank immediately attempted to recruit more young singers. He was able to contract with Janet Chvatal, a Boston area metropolitan opera auditions winner, to solo at the 11:00 a.m. Easter Mass in 1989. She indeed thrilled the congregation with her talent and was able to return again later for a special liturgy.

Early in 1988, Finance Council agreed that the updating of the parish heating System needed to be addressed. This would include the school building, the church, and the rectory. Then parishioner, Pete Kenzler, very knowledgeable in this line, volunteered his expertise and advice. (Pete took over the job as volunteer maintenance man when Rene

Wyffels retired and served the parish until two years later when he moved out of the parish.) An energy audit had been made and it was recommended that small flash boilers in each building would be most suitable. Fuiten's Plumbing and Heating was the low bidder and installed the new system in September, 1988 at a cost of \$20,972.00.

In the fall of 1988, Father Dennis was invited to participate in the Greater Hillsboro and Washington County Leadership program. Council approved payment of the fee. This would involve Father one Wednesday a month. The involvement was an outreach to the poor in our community including the poor in spirit.

In August 1988, the Charismatic Prayer Community celebrated its twelfth anniversary. A celebration was held. The group had formed under Sister Mary Trainor in the summer of 1976. And, the community continues to meet weekly on Tuesday under the guidance of their Pastoral Team.

Pastoral Council focused on a number of concerns in 1988, including development of a pastoral plan for our parish and parish goals, summer parish activities and assessment of parish needs and programs, Right-to-Life, parish renewals, and Lent (with special emphasis on Lent in the religious education program).

In the fall of 1988, the parish office, with the help of parishioner Pat Woods, proceeded to do a complete parish census. It was noted that, during a very short time, more than 50 new households had been added to the list of parishioners. With the computer, all information could be stored and easily kept up to date. The project would take at least one year to finish. Pat made all the phone calls to parishioners getting the information needed for the census. It was then put in the computer for future reference. A good parish census would be important to help the pastor and staff serve the people. It was completed in the fall of 1989! A big job well done. We were especially grateful to Pat for her many hours of telephoning and the accuracy of her work. Pat had "come home" to St. Anthony's just two years prior. She had been a member of St. Bede's Episcopal Church and, prior to that, a baptized and practicing Catholic. Following college she had entered into the Sisters of Providence convent in Seattle for six years. When she came to Forest Grove to teach school, she began attending the St. Bede's Episcopal Church but soon found she must go back to living the Catholic faith. She was involved in many more ways at St. Anthony's, including nursing home visits, Eucharistic Ministry, and Altar care. Pat resides at the Bee Hive Retirement Center in Forest Grove.

Archbishop Levada appointed a steering committee in September 1988, to elicit responses on the first draft of the Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter, "Partners in the Mystery of Redemption," a pastoral response to women's concerns for church and society. Meetings were scheduled. The ninety-nine page draft was written by a committee of six Bishops, including Archbishop Levada, with five women consultants. It encouraged women to participate in all liturgical ministries that do not require ordination. Bishops were asked to submit amendments to the second draft to be voted on.

In December 1988, the parish was saddened and shocked to hear that our former youth minister, Mike Benton, had leukemia. Over a period of time Mike was successfully treated at

the Fred Hutchensen Cancer Center in Seattle. Members of the parish and the Archdiocese of Portland generously helped Mike and Beth prayerfully and financially.

As a Christmas outreach, in December 1988, the Ray Giansante and Ken Gratteri families implemented the Angel Tree project in the parish. It was Christ—centered giving to families of prisoners at Christmas. Members of the parish were encouraged to pick one angel off the Angel Tree. Each angel represented the toy or clothing request of one child. The wrapped gifts were brought to the parish office to be delivered to that child in time for Christmas. A great outreach to these children, whose parents are in prison and who would otherwise not have a Christmas gift. (The outreach is still carried out each holiday season.)

Jean Knutson and Patty Tasa of the parish attended the December 1988, Pastoral Council meeting and shared their ideas of forming a Respect for Life Committee. Its main purpose would be to raise awareness of the issue of abortion. Finance Council approved funds to order a variety of educational pamphlets for placement in the entrance to the church. Pastoral Council offered its blessings on the Respect for Life Committee. “Love Life” a Pro-Life column in the weekly bulletin addressed areas on abortion and euthanasia.

In January of 1989, two potential problems faced the parish. The underground oil tank was leaking and had to be removed because it would soon contaminate the underground area. Several bids were received. Pacific Tank of Portland contracted to remove the tank at a cost of \$11,041.90. We were then informed that the school building and the boiler room must have asbestos inspections. It turned out not to be a major project.

In the spring of 1989 Di Rollo Irrigation Company of Aloha completed the installation of the irrigation system on the parish grounds.

The Saint Vincent De Paul Society had been in the parish for over 3 years and helped people in the community with clothing, food, gas, furnishings, rent, utilities and bus tickets. At this time, it involved over 25 people in the ministry. Nan Cop had been the director and had given her notice to retire. Dale Goodrick volunteered to continue as director of the SVDP with the help of volunteers. The food cupboards were located in the school building and were kept supplied by the people of the parish. Kay Thompson was (and still is) in charge of the organization of the food cupboards. A generous outreach.

In May 1989, Don Gutmann gave his notice that, effective July 1, he would resign as Youth Minister to re-enter Mt. Angel seminary to complete his preparation for ordination as a priest. Don would enter the third year theology at Mt. Angel and would be ordained in about two years. Don’s decision to complete his preparation is a tribute to his personal generosity and the love of the Lord. The people of the parish prayed for Don. The parish would miss his dedication and involvement, but was needed as a priest in the Archdiocese. Don would always be close to the people of St. Anthony’s.

Vince Hofford was hired as a full time youth minister effective August 1, 1989. Vince would minister to the high school youth and college students. He was blessed with a well organized and functioning program which Don left behind.

On May 2, 1989, Father Dennis O’Donovan received word from the Archbishop that he was being assigned to serve St. Cecilia’s parish in Beaverton, effective August 1, 1989. It was a



shock to the staff and parish. He had only been at St. Anthony's parish for seven and a half years. A huge parish debt had been paid off with the exception of \$15,000. It seemed only fair that he should remain for the retirement of the debt. But Archbishop Leveda had other plans; Father Dennis was needed at St. Cecilia, the second largest parish in the Archdiocese. It would be painful for him to leave St. Anthony's but Father regarded the Archbishop's call to serve elsewhere, as God's will for him.

In Forest Grove he had been invited into people's lives in significant ways; baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals, and sacrament of the sick. The people of St. Anthony's felt his answering God's call as he did, to become a priest, had enriched many lives, and will continue to do so. On May 10, 1989 Father Dennis celebrated his twentieth anniversary as a priest.

As a Rotarian, he was devoted to community involvement and the various Archdiocesan committees were a giving part of his life. In Forest Grove, Father, would be remembered for his warm welcome to people of other faiths. Much had been accomplished during the previous seven and a half years. A talented administrator and doer, Father Dennis would leave the parish in excellent spiritual, financial and physical condition – his time at Forest Grove had indeed been a turning point in St. Anthony's Parish. He would be missed!

On Sunday July 9, 1989, a parish potluck was held honoring Father Dennis and Don Gutmann, who was returning to the seminary. The parish gratefully acknowledged all that they had done for our parish.

From the bulletin on that last Sunday:

“This is my last weekend with you as pastor. I want to thank you for all your kindnesses to me during the past seven and a half years. If there are any of you that I have injured in any way or have been less than you needed as a pastor, I beg your forgiveness. For me they have been happy years; I leave reluctantly. St. Anthony's will always hold a special place in my heart”.

--- Father Dennis O'Donovan

It had become quite a time for coming and going – new faces- new challenges. The people were now eager to meet their new pastor and continue their support and involvement. The Archdiocesan Vocations Director had promised us a new pastor with the continuing spirit that we had known the past seven and a half years.

### *The Pastorate of Father Dave Gutmann*

Father Dave Gutmann arrived at St. Anthony's parish on August 1, 1989. He was to be the fourteenth pastor to serve the parish and, at age thirty-five, the youngest.

Father Dave Gutmann was born in Hillsboro, Oregon. The third eldest of five children, he grew up in Hillsboro and attended public grade school and high school. It was in his junior year at Portland State University that he began thinking and talking about his calling to become a priest. Father Dave credits his parents with influencing his choice of a religious vocation. His father, a high school music teacher, was earnestly involved in helping and

caring for people. His mother provided a very powerful witness to Christian sacrifice. Religion in the Gutmann home was not just a topic of daily discussion, but it was a part of daily life. St. Matthew's Catholic Church of Hillsboro was the Gutmann family's parish.

Father Dave's calling to the priesthood was gradual, beginning with his involvement with youth ministry at St. Matthew's in Hillsboro. As a senior, he studied music at Portland State University and performed with the Oregon Symphony. He looked forward to a performing arts career. Then he received his call from God. His participation in youth ministry had provided an outlet for him, sharing faith, knowledge and feelings. That sharing persuaded him to become a priest. Father Robert Cieslinski, then pastor of St. Matthew's, also influenced him; Dave looked to Father Cielinski with respect.

Following his graduation from Portland State University, Father Dave attended Mt. Angel Seminary and was ordained on May 27, 1983, by Archbishop Levada. His first assignments were: associate pastor at St. Peter's Church in Eugene, Oregon, for two years, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Portland, for one year. He was then assigned to Forest Grove as pastor of St. Anthony's Church.

Father Dave Gutmann was installed at St. Anthony's Church on August 6, 1989, by Father Carl Flack (Vicar) of Hillsboro. The Mass and installation was followed by the annual parish barbecue at Roger's Park and provided an ideal time for the parishioners to get acquainted with their new pastor.

When the young priest with a talent for woodworking arrived at Forest Grove, he brought his power tools and materials to continue his spare-time hobby. A portion of the rectory basement was revised to take care of his building needs. In his time off, Father Dave enjoys his river house, kayaking, hiking, biking and jogging. His youthful vigor is stimulating to all who know him.

When Father Dave arrived at St. Anthony's he found a parish functioning well. The huge parish debt on the new Parish Center had been reduced to \$15,000. A Pastoral and administrative Council was actively involved. The high school youth program and the Pacific University campus had good enrollment and sound programs. And, it was evident that Mary Eagle's children's religious education program had achieved a good balance between transmitting doctrine and leading the children to a true relationship with the Lord.

The St. Vincent De Paul outreach was under the direction of Dale Goodrick, with the leadership help of Barbara Chapman and Barbara Vreeland and, was serving the needy in the community.

The physical plant was in excellent condition – a number of large maintenance expenditures, including a new heating system, the Elm Street Improvement project, a new church roof and the removal of the oil tank as well as other projects had been completed.

Frank Lebold, the new choir director, had recruited additional singers and members for the hand bell choir. The folk group, under the direction of Scott and Mary Eagle, had acquired additional members and was regularly scheduled for the Saturday evening and Sunday 9:00 A.M. Masses. The parish office had been computerized and a complete census was on the computer as well as an accounting system, collection program and weekly bulletin.

Jean Knutson and Patti Tasa were involved in pro-life activities of the parish, which included recitation of the Holy Rosary every Friday morning following the 8:00 A.M. Mass. The DeSales program was active with a number of home groups meeting weekly.

The Youth Program and the Campus Ministry would now be in the hands of a new campus minister, Vince Hofford. (Father Dave's brother Don had just resigned to finish his studies to become a priest in the Archdiocese.) The Annual Italian Dinner was well organized and was a major event in the parish.

A number of parishioners were involved in ministries: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters Program, Altar Servers, Music, Religious Education Program, Maintenance, Women's Support Group, First Friday soup lunch and all-night prayer vigil with Eucharistic Adoration, nursing home visitations and communion to the ill and elderly, St. Vincent De Paul, the Costume Shop, Pastoral and Administrative Council, Altar Society, outreach to families, catering wedding dinners, serving funeral dinners, Right to Life activities and coffee and rolls on Sunday morning following Mass.

Two unfinished maintenance projects were paving the parking lot across the street, where the old gym building had been located, and constructing a patio off the nursery in the parish center. Also unfinished was the asbestos problem in the boiler custodial room, in the school building and in the boiler furnace room. An Archdiocesan-approved contractor would be required to take care of the problem at a cost of \$3,015.

At Father Dave's first Pastoral Council meeting, he asked that a number of listening sessions be scheduled to help him get acquainted. Questions he posed were: 1. What do you want me to know about St. Anthony's and the needs of the parish? 2. What suggestions do you have for me as I begin my pastorate? Several sessions were held, and upon completion the comments were summarized and prioritized. Included were: Re-instate the Sunday morning nursery, more frequent coffee and rolls, develop evangelizing outreach to the elderly, and follow-up sessions for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. From the sessions, Father felt that he would have a good idea where we were going as a parish and how he could best support that direction.

Father Dave was impressed with the dedication and involvement of the people in the parish. He noted that thirty-four people are active in a ministry on a weekend: Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Greeters, Musicians and Altar Servers.

Agnes Heesacker was commended for vestments sewn for Father Dave. Her professional-looking job was appreciated. Kay Thompson received recognition for her outstanding work in the St. Vincent De Paul food bank. Her almost daily involvement kept the food cupboards in orderly shape.

Dave Spiering and Morrie DeWolf were appointed maintenance persons for the plant. Their services were volunteered. In 1991, Vince Ryan replaced Morrie.

In 1989, Don Schwejda resigned as volunteer organist. He had served the parish for many years and now wished to retire.

In November 1989, St. Anthony's participated in an inter-church Thanksgiving gathering which included Lutheran, Assembly of God, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Episcopalian and Catholic. It was well attended.

Father Dave was impressed with his first Christmas at St. Anthony's parish. He was especially inspired by the many well-prepared confessions, the outreach to those in need (SVDP and the Angel Tree project), the decorating crew (Beulah Spiering and family, Joan Herb and family) for the Christmas Masses and the many Christmas cards and remembrances he received. He felt that "it was quite a Christmas."

In February 1990, the parish took part in "Called By Name," a program of vocational awareness. The program was designed to pray for vocations, to recognize gifts and potential for leadership and service in members of our own parish, and to encourage those members to share their gifts in a priesthood and religious life. "Called By Name" was being used in parishes in the Archdiocese and was intended as a vocations awareness program. It was known to be an effective tool for fostering vocations. The prayers of the parish were asked.

On February 15, 1990, the parish was saddened in the death of Nan Cop. Nan had served the Saint Vincent De Paul food bank as director for three years. Her death was unexpected.

In May 1990, Father Dave informed Finance Council that Vince Hoffords's contract as youth and campus minister would not be renewed. Father would look at different staffing options. Vince Hofford left on June 1, 1990.

In June 1990, it was announced that we were free of debt, with a minimal debt balance of \$15,000 having been paid in full. A celebration was held on June 30 – the entire parish was invited to a potluck celebration. Members of the Finance and Pastoral Council served as hosts for the evening. It was a proud time for the parish. Following payment of the debt in full, the regular monthly Building Fund envelopes were replaced by the Saint Vincent De Paul outreach envelopes.

In May 1990, I announced that on July 1, 1990, I would retire after twenty-seven years of service as administrative assistant. A celebration was held on July 22, 1990. An elegant reception included not only the people of the parish, but other friends as well. It was a gratifying time. The entire day's festivities will live on in memory. As in times past, the generosity and warmth of the parish was felt. The people ignored the very warm weather and turned out to express their words of gratitude and love. It had been a good twenty-seven years – some periods had been difficult, but St. Anthony's persevering parishioners and pastors kept the parish on a roll.

Following a look at different staffing options. Father Dave recommended that Mary Eagle, formerly part-time Religious Education Director, would begin full time in 1990-91 fiscal year as Pastoral Associate. Her duties would include grades K-6 in religious education, sacramental prep, RCIA, develop our family life ministry by expanding our outreach to the elderly and homebound, evangelization of the inactive Catholics and work with liturgy. Kathy Yee would be the new coordinator of the junior high school and campus ministry. Lois Boogaard would take over the responsibilities as administrative assistant. The new ministries would begin on July 1, 1990.

Father Dave saw the need to delegate and facilitate the work of volunteers in co-responsibility areas. His concern was that there would be too much to do for one person in either job. Several volunteers with expertise in these areas came forward to offer their help. Never had so much help and support been volunteered.

At the November 1989 Pastoral and Finance meetings, the need for a cry room was addressed. It was also agreed that a representative from the Archdiocese be invited to come and give ideas on the renovation of the sanctuary – specifically, changing the paneling and the drape behind the Altar.

In May 1990, Father Dave presented a “State of the Parish” address reviewing the major events of his first ten months as pastor of St. Anthony’s, and sharing his reflections. He felt very supported and affirmed as pastor. The Parish Mission Statement continued to be used as a tool to evaluate the operating vision of the parish. Father Dave challenged us to keep that vision in focus and not to become complacent. At this point we had a parish with many ministries functioning well, no remaining debt and excellent facilities. Pastoral Council’s specific focus remained in helping the pastor with keeping the Gospel vision growing in our midst.

On July 11, 1990, Father Dave’s friend, Father Sassono, was the facilitator for the parish evening workshop open to parishioners interested in leadership and renewal. The evening was received enthusiastically by Pastoral and Finance Council members, and other leadership people of the parish.

Soon after Father’s arrival, he suggested to Finance Council that the rectory should have storm windows installed. Council agreed. Cost was \$1563 less 25% returned by Northwest Natural Gas, through energy-saving program. Also, insulation was installed in the rectory ceilings at a cost of \$550 by JB Insulation. Mike Helsby of Hillsboro contracted to paint the church trim and doors for a cost of \$595.

Glen Van Dyke was appointed as a new member of the Administrative (Finance) Council December, 1989.

When parishioner Jim Hills passed away in 1990, a fund was donated to be used as a memorial for Jim (at the request of his family), for restoration of the parish bell. An appointed parish committee was unable to locate the bell and following a number of inquiries, the project was abandoned. (The bell had been donated to the parish by then parishioner, Casper Jasper soon after St. Anthony’s became a parish. It was used by the early church which was built in 1908. When the present church was built, the bell could not be used until a bell tower was built.) The Hills family agreed that the memorial money would be used to purchase the Holy Spirit plaque, which was placed above the Tabernacle, in Jim’s memory.

Father was impressed with the success of the annual Italian dinner – the linguini, meatballs and sauce – the fine reputation that had been built. The teamwork, enthusiasm and involvement were an inspiration to him.

The ladies of the parish had combined to be one Altar Society – St. Anthony’s Altar Society, Willa Hendricks served as president, and monthly meetings continued to be held

and always included the recitation of the Holy rosary led by Agnes Heesacker. Membership at this time included forty ladies.

Beulah Spiering and Anna Marie Moore had served for a number of years as leaders for the parish Costume Rental Shop. They wished to retire. And, since no one came forward to take over the leadership role, the business was sold in September 1990. A total of \$23,271.70 had been earned from renting costumes during the period of 1975-1990. Beulah and Anna Marie and their workers were commended.

The last annual parish plant sale was held in May, 1990. For over twenty years, the annual plant sale held at Forest Grove Shopping Center provided a source of income to help with the retirement of the various parish debts over the years. Now that the parish was free of its debt and volunteer involvement became more difficult, the annual project was discontinued.

The first year of Father Dave's pastorate at St. Anthony's had come to an end. It had been a good year. The parish membership had increased from five hundred forty-five to over six hundred households and the involvement of the people was outstanding. Father was excited about the planning that was going on in the parish and optimistic about St. Anthony's future as a vital and dynamic parish, having a powerful impact on the greater community. Father Dave's first RCIA brought twenty people to full membership in the Catholic Church – a record number.

Father Dave felt that the people of St. Anthony's parish were truly living their faith.

## CONCLUSION

As of July 1, 1990, my close involvement with the parish ended. The past twenty-seven years have been a privileged time for me. I have enjoyed working with each pastor, associate pastor, nun and lay person. Each with a different commitment and different priorities, and yet serving the Lord, as the Holy Spirit calls them. As I look back, the most exciting time was in 1963 – the opening of our parochial school- finally a parish dream comes true. And then seen years later, the great disappointment which the parish felt, when the sisters were called back to their mother house in Los Angeles. The strength and perseverance of the pastor and the people at that time, was commendable.

It is now over thirty years since the closing of the Second Vatican council. For a number of years the Catholic Church throughout the world, as well as St. Anthony's remained in the grip of a crisis. But, as the years went by, the increase in the number attending Mass and, those who had drifted away from the Church were returning in numbers at St. Anthony's as well as other parishes in the Archdiocese. It was a gratifying time.

It was always reassuring to experience the leadership that Parish Council, and later Administrative and Pastoral Council showed as a body, for the various projects and problems in the parish. Finances were always a concern, especially during the times of the large building and maintenance projects. Each of the pastors, during these times, had been effective administrators and, with Council's help, we were able to continue to move ahead.

The annual turkey and ham dinners and the bazaars, and later the Italian dinners were always a visible example of parish family working together in Christian unity. St. Anthony's is a special parish of which we can all be proud to be members, each serving as the Holy Spirit calls and directs us.

It is my hope that somebody in the parish will continue to gather and record information, for the sake of future records, for parish and Archdiocesan archives.

Respectfully,

Vera DeWolf  
May, 1994